



Jordan Times

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Shamir to seek more time

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, facing wavering support from a Jewish religious party, will ask Israel's president Monday to extend his deadline for forming a new government, his aide said. President Chaim Herzog nominated Shamir's rightist Likud party to form a government after Nov. 1 elections, assuming support from right-wing and religious parties that would give Shamir a parliamentary majority. Now the ultra-religious Agudat Israel Party, to punish Likud over religious legislation, has thrown coalition talks into turmoil by negotiating simultaneously with Shamir's rival, Labour Party leader Shimon Peres. Yossi Ahlmeir, Shamir's aide, said Sunday that even if Agudat Israel should decide to stand with Likud, "the prime minister will ask the president for a few more days. We have to polish the agreements and prepare them for signing." Under Israeli law, the president chooses the party leader most likely to form a government. Shamir has a 21-day deadline, ending Monday, which the president may extend for up to 21 days at Shamir's request.

Iraq demobilises reservists

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its guns silent since August after eight years of war with Iran, began sending thousands of military reservists home this month, an army officer said Sunday. The officer told Reuters the first to be released from duty would be those aged 42 and 43 — the oldest reservists now serving — and those who had served the longest. The officer, who asked not to be named, said President Saddam Hussein had ordered his army commanders to study the feasibility of releasing all other reservists within the next few months. The demobilisation follows Iraq's decision last month to halt recruitment for its 750,000-strong para-military People's Army. Hussein said at the time the armed forces had grown from 12 divisions at the beginning of the war in September 1980 to 100 divisions with 1.25 million men under arms by the time of the Aug. 20 ceasefire. Reservists who worked for the government before being called up are guaranteed their old jobs back — during army service they were still paid their civilian salaries.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Israeli shelling kills 1 in Nabatiyeh

BEIRUT (AP) — Shelling from the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon Sunday killed one teenager and wounded seven other people, in the southern Lebanese market town of Nabatiyeh, police said. A police spokesman said gunners from positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) shelled the town for more than two hours.

Israelis intercept Lebanese boat

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli navy patrol intercepted a fishing boat off the coast of southern Lebanon and took its three-man crew into custody, a military official said Sunday. The fishing boat was seized Saturday morning after the navy patrol identified it as a vessel that has been allegedly involved in transporting suspected commandos from Cyprus to South Lebanon, said the official. The boat, named the Hassan, and its crew were taken to an Israeli naval base, where the men were being questioned. The official said the men were Lebanese, but declined to give further details.

Egypt reopens its airspace to Libya

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, long at odds with its neighbour Libya, said Sunday it had reopened its airspace to Libyan commercial flights after a nine-year closure. Civil Aviation Director Ali Zeiko, quoted by the Middle East News Agency, said Libyan authorities officially asked two weeks ago for facilities at Cairo airport. "Egyptian authorities have agreed to open their airspace for Libyan air traffic starting today," he said. "Libyan aircraft can now land in Cairo, cross Egyptian airspace and the national airline can conduct regular flights to Egypt." It was not immediately clear whether Egyptian airlines would get the same treatment in Libya. Egyptian officials were not available for comment.

Soviets conduct nuclear test

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union Sunday conducted an underground nuclear test on a northern island above the Arctic Circle. The TASS news agency said in a two-sentence announcement that the test on the Novaya Zemlya Island was conducted "with a view to upgrading military technology."

Locusts land on Turkish coast

ANKARA (R) — Turkey reported Sunday that locusts had landed in agricultural areas along its southern coast, possibly after being blown across the Mediterranean from North Africa. State-run radio said the insects, which have caused widespread destruction in Africa and parts of the Middle East, were seen Saturday along a 10-kilometre stretch of the coast between Kale and Finike. The radio said the locusts had not yet damaged crops in the important vegetable and citrus area.

British embassy opens in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — The British flag started flying over the British embassy in the Iranian capital of Tehran again Sunday after an eight-year absence, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The flag of Britain was raised over the downtown embassy in a ceremony marking the return of British diplomats to the building. Swedish diplomats looked after British interests since the embassy was closed soon after the Iranian takeover of the American embassy in November 1979.

French foreign minister due in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas will arrive in Baghdad next week for talks with Iraqi leaders on bilateral relations and peace efforts in the Gulf war, embassy sources said Sunday. They said the minister will be in the Iraqi capital Dec. 11 before leaving for Cairo and three days in Egypt. Dumas, who last visited Iraq in 1986, is expected to meet with President Saddam Hussein and other senior officials.

Sudan-Libya charter delayed

KHARTOUM (AP) — Opposition by a Sudanese political party to a proposed unity charter between Khartoum and Tripoli has postponed the signing of the agreement, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi says. Mahdi told reporters Saturday that there were "differences about the charter of joint action between Sudan and Libya." Libyan Defence Minister Abu Baker Yunis has been visiting Khartoum and the Libyan and Sudanese delegations had been scheduled to sign a joint communiqué Saturday, as well as pave the way for the unity charter between the two countries. Informed sources said that the Democratic Unionist Party, the second largest party in parliament, had postponed the signing of the agreement when it insisted that the words "unity between the two countries" be replaced by "the charter for joint action."

Syria, Iran discuss Lebanon

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks Sunday with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Ali Bisharati which diplomats said were aimed at reconciling Lebanon's feuding militias. The Amal militia and the Iranian-supported Hizbollah (Party of God) fought a series of street battles last week for dominance in west Beirut and its southern suburbs. Damascus sent in troops to end the clashes, in which 29 people were killed and 70 wounded.

12 killed in Natal violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Twelve blacks were killed in attacks in a Natal province township and two members of the security forces were stabbed to death during the weekend, police said Sunday. Police said 11 people in a house were shot dead when an unknown number of blacks knocked on the door and began firing after it was opened at about 3 a.m. (9100 GMT) Saturday. Police said three men, six women, a boy and a girl were killed and two women were wounded in the attack at Trust Seed, near New Hanover in Natal. Police said the body of a black man with stab wounds was found in another house nearby. Police gave no motive or other details in their report.

Chadian delegation leaves for Tripoli

N'DJAMENA (AP) — For the first time since diplomatic relations were restored between Chad and Libya, a delegation of Chadian officials left the capital Sunday to meet with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli, government sources said. Chad and Libya reestablished diplomatic relations Oct. 3 after years of border warfare. No details were provided on the meeting with Qadhafi.

Iran does not want 'iron curtain'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Saturday that Iran does not plan to live behind an iron curtain, but wants friendly political and economic ties with most world states, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. "Our Muslim people should be confident of standing up to the big powers. When big powers see our people's Iran resistance, they will gradually forced to get along with the Islamic revolution," Khamenei said.

Jordan is heir to message of Great Arab Revolt — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan qualifies to be the heir of the Great Arab Revolt because the contemporary history of the Kingdom is linked with the message of the revolt, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday.

Addressing conscripts at the Farah Rehabilitation Centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre, the Regent said that the Great Arab Revolt was the "first event that rallied Arab ranks in our modern history."

"The revolt was based on a comprehensive concept of the (Continued on page 4)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday addresses a gathering at the Farah Rehabilitation Centre at the Al Hussein Medical Centre (Petra photo)

Israelis raid W. Bank villages; 7 Palestinians injured in clash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Sunday raided five villages in the occupied West Bank and rounded up an unknown number of Palestinian protesters, reports said. At least seven Palestinians, most of them teenagers, were shot and wounded in scattered clashes, hospital officials said.

At the refugee camp, No. 1 near Nablus, four women and a two-day girl child were injured by tear-gas inhalation, officials at Nablus' Ithud hospital said. In the southern Gaza Strip, a refugee camp of Jabalya, the army warned residents through loudspeakers to give up any tyres they may be hoarding in their homes or face stiff fines. Palestinian protesters frequently burn tyres in the streets to block roads.

Of the seven Palestinians wounded Sunday, five were shot in the occupied Gaza Strip and two were wounded in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank.

An American-born immigrant was sentenced Sunday to three years in jail for the shooting death of a Palestinian shepherd who brought his sheep to graze near a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

A court last week convicted Israel Zeev, 38, originally of Chicago, of manslaughter for the killing of Judeh Abdallah Awad, 28. Zeev shot the shepherd while on guard duty last May.

It was the first time a Jewish civilian was convicted in the death of a Palestinian since the start of the almost year-long Palestinian uprising. Zeev was

also convicted for shooting and seriously injuring a second Palestinian.

The court Sunday sentenced Zeev to a two-year suspended sentence in addition to three years in jail, and ordered him to pay the dead Arab's family 30,000 Israeli shekels in compensation, about \$7,500.

Zeev's attorney, Jacob Weinroth, said he would probably appeal the conviction.

After Zeev's sentencing, settlers from Shilo, 30 kilometres north of Jerusalem, rose to shake his hand.

The settlers said they objected to the sentence, claiming Zeev was merely doing "his duty" guarding the settlement and

(Continued on page 4)

Mubarak: Arafat to stress peace at U.N.

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will clearly state his desire for Middle East peace in a speech to the United Nations in Geneva next week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday.

"I believe it will include a confirmation in clear-cut terms — for those whose ideas are not clear about the Palestinian problem — that peace is the objective in the region and that there will be no peace if that problem is not solved," he said.

Mubarak was speaking to reporters after more than two hours of talks with Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It was their fourth meeting in less than two months.

The United States has criticised the PLO policy as too ambiguous, especially on the issue of recognising Israel, and has refused to deal with its officials. Washington denied an entry visa to Arafat to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York this week.

Mubarak said: "Our target is

peace... we all want to solve the problem without terrorism. We all hope that stability will prevail in the region whereby everyone, including Israel, would live in peace."

The U.N. General Assembly voted 154 to two, with Israel and the United States casting the only negative votes, Friday to move its annual debate on Palestine to Geneva so Arafat could speak.

Arafat praised Mubarak for his support and said: "God willing, we will all pray in Jerusalem soon."

He dodged questions about Washington's veto and about what he would say in Geneva. "Let us wait and see," he told reporters.

He also declined to comment on whether he thought the United Nations intended to upgrade the PLO's status from non-voting observer to member.

The Middle East news agency reported the comments of both leaders.

Arafat arrived Saturday night.

(Continued on page 4)

Angola talks in suspense after South African exit

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — U.S.-mediated peace negotiations on Angola and Namibia were in suspense Sunday after the South African delegation decamped for consultations at home.

Angola and Cuba reacted angrily to the surprise departure of the South Africans and accused Pretoria of not being serious about the peace process.

Diplomats in the Congolese capital said they hoped the latest hitch in the seven-month-old negotiations would only delay but not block final agreement which they said was tantalisingly close.

"Unless there are basic changes of policy or decision this thing is still on track," a senior member of the U.S. mediating team told reporters.

The hasty South African exit Saturday night occurred when the parties were finalising details for signing a long-awaited peace protocol covering a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

South Africa, with U.S. backing, had made the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola a con-

dition for granting independence to Namibia, a former German colony bordering Angola which Pretoria has ruled since World War I.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada described the behaviour of the South Africans led by Foreign Minister P.W. Botha as a "second rate movie show."

"The reason for their escape from Brazzaville is that they are not ready to sign a peace agreement and not ready to implement the Namibian independence process," he told a news conference.

Angolan delegation chief General Antonio dos Santos Franca told Reuters: "What the South Africans cannot achieve by argument they are trying to achieve by tricks."

Botha defending the decision to leave, saying unresolved details in the negotiations meant further consultations with President P.W. Botha were necessary.

"I don't understand what all the fuss is about," he said. He indicated the South African delegation would return to the talks soon.

King sends message to Assad

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Sunday paid a working visit to Damascus where he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Assad and Rifai also held talks on the current situation in the region and bilateral relations in a meeting attended by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Za'bi.

Zu'bi and senior Syrian officials received and saw off Rifai upon his arrival and departure from Damascus.

Rifai was seen off at Amman airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi and a number of Cabinet ministers.

On his return, Rifai was received by the ministers of state for parliamentary affairs, transport and telecommunications, information and the minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs.

British defence procurement minister arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Minister of State for Defence Procurement Lord Trefgarne arrived Sunday for talks with senior Jordanian officials, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said the British minister was met upon arrival by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh, and other officials and British diplomats.

It said the minister was scheduled to tour army bases in addition to visiting the Kingdom's historic sites.

the deficit should be cut by at least half," said Tarawneh, an economist. "We will control current expenditure. On the capital side, we will cut infrastructure projects or those with a high foreign component."

The budget would channel spending towards new investment and export promotion funds, but maintain subsidies on basic goods like oil, wheat, sugar and rice to counter inflation.

Their cost likely to rise to about JD 32 million from JD 19 million in the 1988 budget because prices had gone up abroad and the dinar had declined, he said.

Tarawneh estimated the 1988 inflation rate at six per cent, but had no forecast for 1989. No wage policy had been decided.

Tarawneh said the recently announced one-year ban on imports of luxury items would slice about \$200 million off the import bill, while higher customs duties and the dinar's lower value would cut imports by another \$100 million.

The effective devaluation would boost exports by a fifth, bringing in an extra \$200 million, he predicted.

"So we are talking of \$500 million on the commodity side in 1989, which is about one third of the trade deficit," he said.

Tarawneh said the adjustment in the dinar's value should attract foreign tourists and discourage Jordanians from travel. Coupled with higher work permits fees, it would also stem the outflow of

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Thousands of lives too late, south Sudan relief airlift begins

By Hamza Headswi
Reuter

KHARTOUM — Many thousands of lives too late, an airlift to feed an estimated two million malnourished people in war-torn south Sudan finally began Sunday after months of wrangling.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) first proposed almost a year ago to fly supplies to both rebel-controlled and government-held areas of the south. But tortuous negotiations with the Khartoum government and rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) meant the ICRC planes were not cleared for take-off until Sunday.

Foreign relief officials in Khartoum said the supplies would arrive too late for tens of thousands who have starved to death. They also expressed fears that the airlift might be brief in view of what they called the treacheries of the five-year war. "I cannot say what exactly will happen to bring the operation to a halt, but I can say that there are no angels in this war," said one senior relief official.

A Hercules C-130 plane left Khartoum for the government-held town of Wau, 1,000 kilometres to the southwest, with 4.5 tonnes of food and two

trucks, ICRC officials said. A six-man ICRC relief team also left Khartoum for Wau in a light aircraft.

Simultaneously, two planes left the northwestern Kenyan town of Lokichokio for the towns of Ler and Akon, both held by the SPLA.

The plane for Ler carried only fuel to supply a fleet of planes expected to shuttle between Lokichokio and Akon. The Akon-bound plane carried 700 kilograms of medicine and children's supplementary food, the officials said.

Flights to the army-controlled town of Aweil and rebel-held Yriol are due later this week. Aid workers say 8,000 people died in Aweil alone between June and September this year.

In 1986 an ICRC relief operation for the south was called off after only a few days because the SPLA shot down a Sudanese airliner over the southern town of Malakal, killing all 62 people on

board.

The SPLA, led by former army colonel John Garang, has fought in the South since 1983 to end what it regards as domination by the north.

The guerrillas have often ambushed river barges, truck convoys and trains carrying food to the south, claiming they were also used to resupply troops.

They have also mined roads and their long-standing threat to shoot down planes flying to the south without their permission has prevented any major relief airlift.

The fighting and consequent famine have forced around three million southerners to seek food and security elsewhere in Sudan or in neighbouring Ethiopia. Thousands died en route or shortly after arrival.

Last week the Khartoum government approved a tentative peace pact with the SPLA, which still needs parliamentary approval.

The ICRC hopes to stockpile food and medical supplies with local relief committees in the south for use during next year's April-October rainy season.

Relief officials said the ICRC was confident of winning the trust of local army commanders and guerrillas but was concerned about the reaction from militias and merchants in the south.

Hijack gang back in Moscow to face 'deserved punishment'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Members of an armed gang who hijacked a Soviet plane to Israel have arrived back in Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said Sunday.

The hijackers seized a bus full of children Thursday, released them and then flew to Israel on a commandeered plane. Israel sent them back to the Soviet Union after they gave themselves up on arrival.

TASS said four "terrorists" arrived at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport aboard two special Aeroflot flights.

It said a fifth person previously referred to as a gang member was Tamara Yakshiyants, wife of ringleader Pavel Yakshiyants, and that she had in fact been a hostage.

Pavel Yakshiyants and another hijacker arrived back in Moscow at 2.30 a.m. on the Ilyushin-76 which had taken them to Israel.

His wife and the other two hijackers arrived 20 minutes later on a Tupolev-154, TASS said.

The Tupolev-154 had flown to Tel Aviv Saturday with 19 Soviet medical staff and investigators after Israel agreed to hand the gang over to face trial.

The gang had stolen more than \$2 million worth of roubles which TASS said were later handed over to Soviet authorities.

TASS said later Sunday the man, led by Yakshiyants, 38, already convicted of thefts and hold-ups, would "sustain a deserved punishment."

"It was the first time that such an operation has been carried out with the participation of another

state and its results can be described as successful," TASS said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that the Soviet Union's enthusiastic response to Israel's role in the hijacking episode had given "a new significance" to ties with Moscow.

Peres also said in an interview with army radio that Israel agreed to speedily return the hijackers to the Soviet Union only after receiving assurances they wouldn't face the death penalty.

"The Soviets promised us in writing that these people wouldn't be executed and so there was no point in delaying or complicating the process," Peres said.

He was also full of praise for Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who personally and warmly thanked Israeli consular chief in Moscow, Aryeh Levine, for Israel's help in the affair.

Shevardnadze was the highest ranking Soviet official to meet Levine since the Israeli delegates arrived in Moscow last July.

Peres said the gesture was "almost without precedent in our relations with the Soviet Union in recent years. I want to hope this has a significance beyond the event of the day."

"And we have an interest to continue cultivating the relations that are emerging now," Peres said.

"The representations in Israel and Moscow now have a new significance," Peres added, referring also to a Soviet consular

delegation that has been working out of the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv since July 1987.

Israeli newspapers also echoed Peres' hopes that the weekend hijacking drama, which involved unusual exchanges between the Israeli and Soviet governments, would bring more improvement in ties with Moscow.

On Friday, Israeli army Chief of Staff Dan Shomron described them as "simple criminals who wanted to flee the Soviet Union."

The hijack drama began in a remote corner of the southern Soviet Union Thursday, when the four men armed with pistols and a sawed-off shotgun commandeered the schoolbus with 30 children.

Soviet authorities gave the hijackers an Ilyushin-76 transport jet with crew and \$3.3 million in exchange for the release of the children and a teacher.

The hijackers forced the crew to fly to Israel. The jet landed at 5.47 p.m. (1547 GMT) Friday, and they surrendered a half hour later.

They came off the plane carrying bags filled with dollars, rubles, Swiss francs and other foreign currency, and dumped the paper bills and coins on the tarmac after Israeli troops insisted they prove they were not holding explosives.

The five were taken to Abu Kahir prison for interrogation. Two were Armenians, two were Russians and one was from the Russian Soviet Republic near Turkey. None was Jewish.

Afghan rebels say peace talks a victory

NICOSIA (R) — An Afghan rebel official said Sunday they had achieved a victory by holding direct peace talks with a Soviet delegation.

Three guerrilla leaders began negotiations with a Soviet team late Saturday at the Saudi mountain resort of Taif on the Red Sea coast and held a second session Sunday.

Moscow had refused previously to talk to the rebels, backed by the United States, while they rejected negotiations with the Soviet-backed Afghan government which they regard as illegal.

"This is a victory for us because the talks are directly with us... with no representation from the Kabul government," said the rebel official.

contacted in Riyadh by telephone.

The rebels who have been at war for nine years have vowed to fight on until all Soviet troops leave Afghanistan.

"We do not want to give them time to breathe," said the official, who declined to be identified. "The talks are not just on exchanging prisoners... they are dealing with bigger issues."

Following low-level talks in Pakistan last month, the two sides announced the release of three Soviet prisoners in return for 30 guerrillas.

Saudi Foreign Ministry officials refused to comment on the progress of the negotiations in Taif.

The Afghan rebel delegation

was led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of an alliance of seven guerrilla groups.

The Soviet team was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov, Moscow's ambassador to Kabul. He is regarded as close to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and authorised to take key decisions on Afghanistan, diplomats said.

Moscow has pulled out nearly half its 115,000-man force in Afghanistan following an agreement signed in April but it halted the withdrawal on the grounds that rebel activity had increased. The agreement called for a complete withdrawal by mid-February.

A statement issued in Islamabad on Rabbani's behalf said

the guerrillas would demand "a total and immediate withdrawal of Russian troops, payment of war reparations and urgent removal of mines in areas under Russian occupation."

The rebels have rejected the April accord signed in Geneva by Pakistan and the Kabul government, but Vorontsov was expected to raise Moscow's proposal that an international conference should be held on Afghanistan's future.

Afghan President Najibullah said he had proposed direct talks to end the fighting in a message to a leading rebel field commander, Ahmad Shah Massoud, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported from Kabul.

"At present contacts have been established and are being maintained through various channels with Ahmad Shah Massoud," TASS quoted Najibullah as saying.

"Messages sent to the prominent leader of the opposition inside the country convey proposals about direct talks on the question of cessation of blood shed without any preconditions."

"We are now waiting for a reply to the messages and for reciprocal proposals," Najibullah said.

Last month, in a live satellite interview, rebel leader Rabbani told reporters that "we believe that the government of Afghanistan does not have the power to remain without the Soviets

U.S., Israel have 'secret accord on covert action'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newspaper has reported that an Israeli linked to the Iran-contra affair who died in a plane crash last week said in June that a secret U.S.-Israeli agreement authorised counterterrorism operations he supervised with former White House aide Oliver North.

According to the Washington Post in its Sunday edition, Amir Nir, the former Israeli official who died in a crash in Mexico Wednesday, told the Post last summer that the agreement authorised still-secret operations that he and North supervised in 1985-86.

The Post said U.S. and Israeli sources confirmed the existence of the Israeli-American agreement, referred to as "terms of reference" or "accords" by some knowledgeable sources. The paper said the agreement never was disclosed to Congress.

Nir, who served as an adviser to two Israeli prime ministers, maintained that the secret U.S.-Israeli covert operations were authorised by an agreement signed by President Ronald Reagan and then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, said the Post.

Other sources said the agreement was signed at a lower level. Although few details of these operations have been disclosed, the paper said, Nir said the Israeli government has detailed records of all of them.

The Post said one operation conducted under the agreement was the organising of an armed force of Lebanese Druze in Beirut in May 1986, at a time when the White House was considering the use of force to try to free U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

As described by Nir, the agreement led to a series of covert actions that had common tactical elements, according to the Post. The secret transactions that led to the diversion of U.S.-Iran arms sales profits to the contra rebels in Nicaragua may have fit a pattern established in those undertakings, the newspaper said.

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Amiram Nir

reporter Boh Woodward June 25 and June 26 in London, with an agreement that none of the information would be attributed to him without further discussions, the newspaper said.

Nir told the Post in October that he still was not ready to "go public" with the information, the newspaper said. It said Post editors concluded that Nir's death removed the reasons for the agreement to withhold attribution of the information he had

Cyprus presses bid for EEC membership

RHODES (AP) — Cyprus, seeking closer ties with Western Europe, pressed its case for European Economic Community (EEC) membership in the margins of a two-day EEC summit that ended here Saturday.

Led by Foreign Minister George Jacovos, Cypriot officials lobbied in the summit's corridors and also staged a cultural exhibit on their divided island's history of trading with the West.

"We're here on the periphery... and I'm here as a citizen of Famagusta to launch the exhibit on its more than three thousand years of history," Jacovos told reporters Saturday.

"Of course we're eager to talk about our plans... and about an applicant for EEC membership that bars people from returning to their homes in the town," he said, in a reference to Turkey, which keeps 35,000 soldiers in northern Cyprus where the Turkish Cypriot minority unilaterally proclaimed independence in

1983.

The 1974 Turkish invasion ter a Greek-led coup on Cyp drove more than 30,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and transformed Famagusta from a booming tourist resort into a ghost town where, Jacovos said, "trees grow in the streets."

The EEC, under pressure from Greece, has linked Turkey's application for membership progress on reunifying Cyprus.

With Greece presiding over the summit, the Cyprus problem came back into focus.

In a statement, the 12 EEC leaders called for "rapid progress" in new talks between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to end the "tr division of the island."

President George Vassiliou and Rauf Denktaş, head of self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot republic of northern Cyprus, started reunification talks October under United Nations auspices.

Refusal of Arafat visa widens U.S.-U.N. rift

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. decision to deny Yasser Arafat a visa when he wanted to address the General Assembly put the United States on a collision course with the world body at a time when old wounds were beginning to heal.

The General Assembly voted 154-2 Friday to reconvene in Geneva Dec. 13-15 so Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, can address it.

The assembly's action is considered a slap in the face to the administration of President Ronald Reagan, whose tenure has been marked by strained relations with the United Nations.

The highest-ranking U.S. official at the United Nations, disrespected by the U.S. action, wrote to Reagan saying the move had "done incalculable damage to U.S. credibility in the world arena."

Under-Secretary-General

Joseph Verner Reed, in a letter leaked Friday, urged the president, "Let him speak. Let the world community hear his words."

"The United States is a proponent of free speech all over the world," he wrote. "Yet it will not permit Chairman Arafat to enter the United States to speak in a public forum on international territory."

Reed called the visa denial a violation of the U.S.-U.N. headquarters agreement.

"Does this spell the end of the United Nations in the United States and the United States in the United Nations?" Reed asked in the letter.

Reagan officials have accused the United Nations of anti-Western bias, wastefulness and of running a bloated, inefficient bureaucracy in need of reform. Washington has withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in dues in recent years to register its displeasure with the organisation.

The United States frequently was denounced as im-

perialistic by developing nations, which dominate the 159-nation General Assembly.

But in recent years, civility, cooperation and equilibrium had been restored.

The United States praised the United Nations and its peacekeeping efforts in Afghanistan and in the Iran-Iraq war and its potential for peacekeeping in southern Africa, Western Sahara, South-East Asia and elsewhere.

NEWS ANALYSIS

When Reagan delivered his final presidential speech to the United Nations in September, he was well-received.

U.N. officials, U.S. allies, Arab leaders and most of the international community opposed the move to bar Arafat. They said the United States was obliged, under the 1947 U.N. headquarters agreement, to grant visas to all U.N. diplomats and invitees on U.N. business.

The United States, which "admitted Arafat in 1974 to address the world body, now says he is an 'accessory' to 'terrorist' acts and bars him."

Arafat diplomats said the rejection of Arafat's visa application on those grounds was a slap in the face to the United Nations.

"This is the last hurrah of the Reagan administration and has eroded U.S. credibility with Arab nations," said Clovis Maksoud, ambassador of the Arab League to the United Nations.

"But we do not think it will do lasting damage," he added.

"We fully expect the new administration of President-elect George Bush will be more pragmatic and less ideologically obsessive than its predecessor. We expect the new administration to take stock of this unfortunate episode, learn from the international outrage that it has generated and move constructively."

Before the Arafat problem, the United States was involved

in another international uproar this year over its efforts to close the PLO's U.N. mission.

That move, opposed by Secretary of State George Shultz, was pursued by the Justice Department until a federal judge in New York said the move was illegal and violated U.S. obligations to the United Nations.

The episode soured U.S.-U.N. relations. Most Arab states wanted to move the General Assembly to Geneva in protest, and said the United States was trying to stifle the voice of the Palestinian people.

Apart from the PLO problem, the United States has been estranged from the world body because its total outstanding dues now are more than \$400 million as a result of its money withheld to protect U.N. policies.

In September, the Reagan administration announced would pay some back dues and make arrangements to pay its outstanding balance.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:00 Koran
15:20 Programme review
15:25 Children's programmes
16:00 Football match
16:20 News summary in Arabic
16:45 World News
16:50 Arabic Series
16:55 Local programme
17:00 Programme review
17:40 News in Arabic
17:50 Arabic Series
18:00 Sports Roundup
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Continued
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 Evening Show Continued
23:45 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pierre et le loup
18:00 French documentary
18:30 Rue Carot
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 George Burns
21:10 Lizzie's pictures
22:00 News in English
22:20 Play of the week: "The Believer's Tapes"

RADIO JORDAN

855 kHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 850 kHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
18:00 News Summary

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fair
06:15 (Sunrise) Daba
11:36 Dhur
14:13 'Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:58 'Isha

MUSEUMS

Children's Heritage and Science Museum: Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel: 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 64590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 63440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757 Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m., winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrence Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel: (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:10 Agaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:40 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:50 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:55 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Brussels, Montreal, New York (RJ)
11:40 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:20 Firas pharmacy
20:30 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
10:15 Frankfurt (LH)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
14:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:30 Baghdad (IA)
21:50 Baghdad (AF)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A slight drop in temperature will occur accompanied by a rise in relative humidity percentage, and winds will be light and variable becoming north-westerly moderate in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Tawfiq Qabib 623029
Dr. Khalil Abdo 753392
Dr. George Sahouri 894546
Dr. Tayyar Sa'idi 776336
Firas pharmacy 65912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Tawfiq Qabib 623029
Dr. Khalil Abdo 753392
Dr. George Sahouri 894546
Dr. Tayyar Sa'idi 776336
Firas pharmacy 65912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Petrol Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority

Royal Decree approves trade pact with Finland

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree Sunday endorsed an agreement between Jordan and Finland paving the ground for cooperation in economic, industrial and technological fields.

The two countries signed the five-year renewable agreement on Oct. 9 to expand their mutual relations and facilitate, strengthen, diversify and increase the volume of trade between them.

The two sides agreed to encourage investments in either country and to launch joint ventures.

The agreement was signed by Alec Aalto, deputy director

general of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, who said that his government was making a special effort to support private Finnish companies in financing trade and offering mixed credits with subsidised interest.

He said Finland's trade with Jordan was worth only \$15 million but that there was a Finnish interest in increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

He said Finland was interested in exporting energy, telecommunication systems, wood and knowhow, while Jordan hopes to export fertilisers.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

REGENT RECEIVES 2 DELEGATIONS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received members of the board of directors of the Jordanian Roads Society and the preparatory committee for the symposium on road pits. Also Sunday, Prince Hassan received participants in the special meeting on planning policies of World Industrial Property Organisation and discussed with them scopes of cooperation between Jordan and WIPO. (Petra)

REGENT CONGRATULATES THAILAND: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, congratulating him in his own name and in the name of Jordan's people and government on Thailand's Independence Day. Prince Hassan also wished King Bhumibol continued good health and happiness and the Thai people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

CZECH LEADER PRAISES JORDAN: Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak has paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts worldwide for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The president expressed deep satisfaction with the development of Jordanian-Czechoslovak relations in various fields and said his country would continue to support Arab causes, especially efforts for convening an international conference on the Middle East. Husak spoke upon receiving the credentials of Jordan's non-resident Ambassador Hani Tabbara, who is also the Kingdom's ambassador to Yugoslavia. Tabbara conveyed the King's greetings to the Czech president and his wishes for the Czechoslovak people for further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

2 NEW CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRES: Civil Defence Director General Khalid Tarawneh Sunday inaugurated two civil defence centres, one in Sabha and the other in Al Uqaf in Maifra Governorate. The two centres will provide first aid, fire-fighting and rescue services to citizens in these two areas. (Petra)

PLASTIC ART EXHIBITION: Mu'ta University President Ali Mahafza Sunday opened the first plastic art exhibition of Uthman Dmour at the university. (Petra)

MILITARY EXHIBITION: Deputising for Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Jarash District Governor Ratab Majali Sunday opened a five-day military exhibition, organised by Jarash municipality in cooperation with the Armed Forces Moral Guidance Department on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. (Petra)

ARAB HEALTH MINISTERS MEETING: Jordan is taking part in a meeting by the Arab health ministers due to open in Damascus Monday to discuss the prospect of teaching medicine and medical sciences in Arabic. In a statement before departure to take part in the meeting Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said the ministers are meeting to look into the prospect of arabising the teaching of medicine. (Petra)

OFFICIALS END TRAINING COURSE: A total of 27 senior government officials Sunday ended a training course organised by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). The course was in implementation of decision taken by the Higher Royal Commission for overhauling the civil service system in the country. (Petra)

LOANS FOR MA'AN FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation has given loans worth JD 237,000 to farmers in Ma'an Governorate to be used for 37 agricultural projects. (Petra)

STATISTICS TRAINING SEMINAR: A 10-day training seminar for government employees in the Gulf countries, Syria, Qatar, Iraq and Palestine opened at the department of statistics in Amman Sunday. Among the speakers at the opening session was Dr. Abdul Hadi Alawin, the department's director, who underlined the importance of statistics for Arab national development, and outlined the department's activities and programmes in the Kingdom. The seminar is organised by the Baghdad-based Arab Institute for Statistics and Research Training. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- ★ An exhibition on Aila, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre.
- ★ A combined exhibit of watercolours, oil paintings and prints including works by: Faryal Azami, Diana Shamounki, Rima Farah, and few other artists, with a display of wall hangings by Yvonne Yassin on popular Nursery Rhyme Themes at the Hotel Jordaa International Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at the Fine Arts Department, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ The annual book exhibition of the Yarmouk University which includes academic, scientific and cultural books besides exhibiting dictionaries and scientific encyclopaedias.
- ★ A Yugoslavian art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A military exhibition which displays military books, photos for His Majesty King Hussein, and paintings by several Jordanian artists at Jerash Municipality Library.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Jordanian artist Othman Dmour at Mu'ta University.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Latif Itawi at Al Wasiti Gallery for plastic art — 6:00 p.m.

FORUM

- ★ A round table discussion on Museum Education led by Dr. Manfred Vogt and with directors and staff members of the museums in Jordan and interested experts in education at Haya Cultural Centre — 11:00 a.m.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Ya 'Antar" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ An Italian film, English subtitle, "Fartello" (Brother Sea) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

'Conditions are ripe for Jordan to readjust to new realities'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, paid a surprise visit to the Ministry of Industry and Trade Saturday evening and met with a committee entrusted with following up the implementation of the government's recent monetary, economic and financial decisions.

In the presence of Prince Hassan, the committee chairman, Mohammad Saqqaf reviewed the committee's main task which also includes the effects of the government's decisions on various sectors and dealing with problems and difficulties in the course of implementing the decisions.

Prince Hassan said conditions are now ripe for Jordan to readjust to new realities and adapt to the requirements of the new stage in development, so that the process of construction and production can continue.

"A comprehensive national mobilisation effort should take place since the present stage in Jordan's economic development is not a temporary one," the Crown Prince added.

He said that this stage requires the economic sectors to



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

adapt and adjust to new requirements and new realities, and that the committee ought to undertake a reassessment process every three months in order to determine its achievements and to decide on further measures.

He added: "Priorities should be altered in accordance with the given circumstances, and coordination among various government agencies is essential especially in matters pertaining to major economic projects."

Prince Hassan emphasised

that imported commodities should be made to serve the objectives of exports, and that Jordan ought to conclude "equitable" trade deals with other countries. He also stressed that the comprehensive development charter proposed by His Majesty King Hussein should serve as a guideline for every enterprise.

"The present stage calls for radical changes in the communications sector so that the information media can be transformed into a tool helping to promote national mobilisation, leading further impetus to production," Prince Hassan pointed out.

In presenting his review of the committee's task, Saqqaf referred to the committee's accomplishments, and said that its members meet twice a week to examine issues referred to it from other government ministries.

Saqqaf announced that the Ministry of Industry and Trade will shortly appoint commercial attaches at Jordan's embassies in Belgium, Japan and the United States to help promote marketing Jordanian national products.

Regional seminar to discuss effects of environmental health problems

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The World Health Organisation (WHO) will organise a regional conference in Amman between Dec. 10 and 14 to discuss environmental health problems and their impact on social, economic and industrial development.

A statement by the WHO's Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) said that many of the problems that are currently facing in the East Mediterranean region with regards to environmental health are complex and intrinsically associated with the needs of development.

In addition, the potential for severe environmental damage through uncontrolled or haphazard industrial and urban expansion is very great, the statement noted.

The conference, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is expected

to review 28 working papers dealing with the following main topics: Development strategies for the region, development and public health, rural and urban development, appropriate technologies for development and implications for environment and health, appropriate technologies for water supply and sanitation and their implementation, human resources development in environmental health and inter-sectoral collaboration in environmental protection.

The statement pointed out that while some papers will address immediate problems, others will focus on the longer term issues that should be influencing strategy and policy-planning in member states.

The statement, which was issued by CEHA, said that during the conference Prince Hassan is expected to inaugurate CEHA's new premises at Um Uthaina, a three-floor building provided by the Health Ministry to help promote the centre's activities.

The conference will be divided

into eight sessions spread over five working days, while a sixth-day has been allocated for participants to visit places of interest and development projects in the country.

The first session will be addressed by Prince Hassan along with Dr. Hussein Gezairi, the centre's regional director and Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

Participants will come from Jordan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, South Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, North Yemen and representatives of the WHO regional office for Africa, the regional office for South East Asia, the regional office for the Western Pacific, along with those representing the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank.

NHF trains teachers in use of drama as modern teaching method

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The use of drama and theatre in education is yet another subject being tackled by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), as one of its many projects around the Kingdom.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the NHF is conducting a workshop to train teachers in both private and public schools to use various drama

skills in developing the imagination and positive tendencies among children.

The workshop is also designed to train teachers in the use of drama as a modern teaching method, far from the traditional method of rote. Practical applications of such acquired skills is expected to be of use to the 50 or so teachers attending the workshop and representing various schools, from all over the country.

The foundation started its theatre in education programme in 1987 in an attempt to provide children with opportunities to learn through drama, and at the same time to promote drama in Jordan.

The training of teachers takes place in both private and public schools in addition to community colleges. For although the programme was started in Amman, its eventual aim is to reach all parts of the Kingdom.

JAMPCO to import Lebanese apples in exchange for Jordanian vegetables

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company

(JAMPCO) has embarked on implementing an agreement with Lebanon under which Lebanese apples will be exchanged for Jordanian vegetables. JAMPCO Director General Ghazi Abu Hassan announced Sunday.

Jordan is selling Lebanon nearly 4,000 tonnes of marrows, eggplants, cucumbers, beans, sweet and hot pepper in exchange for apples, according to the agreement which went into effect Saturday, Abu Hassan said.

JAMPCO takes charge of all Jordanian agricultural exports to Arab and non-Arab countries, especially European nations, and organises the purchase and

marketing of local crops to ensure a sufficient flow of vegetables and fruit in the Jordanian markets.

Tomatoes bought by the company are normally sold here and abroad and surpluses are turned into paste at the company's processing plants at Marka, the Arida, South Shubeh, North Shubeh, Wadi Al Yabes and Ghor Al Safi.

JAMPCO last month sold 160 tonnes of Jordanian vegetables in European markets in implementation of contracts concluded with importers and it is under contract to sell up to 7,000 tonnes of vegetables to these markets in the current season.

Health Ministry, JUST sign cooperation pact

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) have signed an agreement for cooperation in improving and expanding primary health care services.

The agreement provides for JUST to open a course for post graduates in primary health care so that they can be employed to offer services to the Health Ministry's hospitals and health centres. It also includes plans to provide special medical training for Health Ministry employees working in the primary health care services, and provide advanced training at JUST for ministry dentists, nurses and paramedics within the primary health care programmes, operated by the Ministry of Health in the Kingdom.

The two sides agreed on forming a technical and administrative committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement and to set up sub-committees charged with discussing academic and administrative matters of mutual concern.

Crown Prince to be named 'Volunteer of the Year'

Jordan to honour volunteers today

By Ghadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Monday, Dec. 5, is another landmark for the international community in that it is "International Volunteer Day" — a day of volunteers everywhere. For Jordan it has an additional significance since it offers an opportunity to remind everyone of the noble sentiments behind voluntary work and honour the spirit that motivates it.

Jordan joins international celebrations marking the day with a grand ceremony held Monday morning under royal patronage at the Sports City to honour voluntary organisations and individuals who have made their mark on voluntary work in the Kingdom.

According to Dr. Abdullah Khatib, chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), 18 organisations "which have done excellent work in offering help to the needy and six individuals with highly remarkable background in voluntary work, will be honoured with royal awards at the ceremony.

Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan and Khatib are scheduled to address the gathering emphasising the importance of voluntary work in the society.

Another ceremony will be held later in the day at the Palace of Culture where about 300 Jordanians who volunteered to help victims of drought, famine, floods and civil war in Sudan will be presented with certificates of appreciation.

The highlight of the ceremony will be the naming of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan,

the Regent, as "Volunteer of the Year" in recognition of his leading role in organising much-needed help for the Sudanese people and his concern and active participation in world humanitarian affairs through the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI).

The Amman ceremonies, in which representatives from all governorates in Jordan will take part, will be followed in the week by visits to outlying areas by volunteer teams organised by GUVS.

Khatib said the teams, estimated to total about 1,000, would visit hospitals, organisations for the physically handicapped and other charitable bodies and offer voluntary work there.

Commenting on the general situation in voluntary work in Jordan, Khatib said: "I do believe that this is one of the highlights of life in the Jordanian society. The efficiency and selfless service of our organisations and societies for the welfare of the poor and less fortunate have made Jordan one of the best countries in the field of voluntary work."

Ministry plans new standards for any future transport agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is currently conducting a study on the amendment of Jordan's agreements with other countries in land, air and maritime transport so as to conform to Jordanian regulations and rules and the government's recent financial and economic decisions, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced Sunday.

The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is therefore revising transport agreements and planning new versions for any future cooperation with other countries in this sector, the minister noted.

Referring to Jordan's transport relations with Iraq, the minister said cooperation in this respect was satisfactory and is in line with the recommendations of the joint committee resolutions issued in Amman late last year.

Both Iraq and Jordan are keen on doing all they can to support coordination in maritime and land transport fields.

Under the agreement, the

Jordanian carrier have been exempted from paying to Iraq extra fees on additional operations carried out for Iraqi businesses and the fees for testing animal products. Both countries agreed on dealing with commodities "lost in transit" while being transported in containers from Aqaba Port to destinations in Iraq, Haj Hassan noted.

He also announced that the Iraqi side has now paid up all its dues to the amount of JD 3.5 million to the United Land Transport Company which transports Iraqi goods.

"Concerned Jordanian authorities are now examining the prospect of amending legislations and laws to make the local shipping and clearing agents acting for maritime carriers liable to risk and responsibility on equal basis with that of the shipowners and carriers," the minister said.

He said this is being examined in response to an Iraqi request. Haj Hassan said Jordan has granted Iraq a discount of 20 per cent on fees for its imported goods being stored at the port,

Dr. Ali A. Attiga, a senior United Nations official, agrees.

"In Jordan voluntary work has been taking hold for some time now," said Attiga, resident coordinator and representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan. "We see that the number of charitable non-governmental organisations, especially with the efforts of women, is quite noticeable, compared to other countries in the region."

He added that he would like to see more interest among young people to work in depressed areas outside Amman or overseas. "This is what the United Nations is particularly interested in and would like to promote," he said.

In a worldwide campaign, the Geneva-based voluntary service programme of the U.N. actively recruits volunteers from all ages — young as well as experienced elders.

The programme provides a subsistence allowance for persons sent outside their respective countries. According to Attiga at present there are more than 5,000 people working in the programme all over the world.

Attiga stressed the importance of the spirit of International Volunteer Day.

The U.N. initiated the observance of the day since 1981.

"It signifies the concern of the world community represented at the U.N. General Assembly. It gives us a chance to convince people of the nobility of volunteer work. It is relatively easy to give money, that is why it is so much more important to give yourself."

Swedish expert stresses regional cooperation to boost economic base

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — There are major shifts taking place in the world's economic map. The general trends indicate that as far as the markets of the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf area are concerned, the outlook, dominated by pragmatism, is in favour of countries like Japan, the Soviet Union, India and China. This will be at the expense of the United States and countries that are members of the European Community.

This summarises the views expressed by a Swedish specialist on the economics and politics of the Middle East and North Africa, who is currently on a working visit to Jordan.

Marianne Aringberg-Laantza believes that as far as the United States is concerned, the ascendancy of protectionism-oriented Democrats in Congress was bound to isolate the United States and shrink its market share abroad. At the same time, the drive towards European integration, which dominates the economic debate in Europe towards the 1992 target, is perceived as a cause for alarm in terms of the Community's trade ties with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

In the meantime, Japan is taking steps like recycling \$30 billion outside its borders, mostly in the Middle East and North Africa. Jordan was one of the countries that Japan has decided to provide a \$300 million technical assistance package.

"The Japanese have always considered the Middle East as the most important area for energy resources," Aringberg-Laantza pointed out. "They have not changed that analysis."

She believes that the Japanese "are tired of the U.S. pressure" in the context of global trade relations, and that they want to expand their cooperation with the region by establishing permanent links.

"They do not want to feel they have to change their suppliers of oil and gas because of temporary political reasons," she said, pointing out to developments in the Gulf area.

As for the Middle East and North Africa region is concerned, the researcher believes that bilateral economic cooperation and the opening of borders between states in the region was a very healthy development towards building a better economic base, through more liberalisation. She pointed out to the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Maghreb unity project.

She noted that the Soviet Union, China and to certain extent India, have dramatically increased their economic involvement in the Middle East and North Africa. This involvement, she observed, is happening at the expense of the United States and Europe that are more preoccupied with internal affairs than outside.

On inter-Arab economic cooperation, Aringberg-Laantza said, the big stress is on the private sector and the liberalisation of inter-Arab relations. "If they succeed, they will put a

positive push in the region," she told the Jordan Times. "If it does not succeed, it will incur a negative impact."

She continued: "The time is right for regional economic pragmatism as an ideological base for cooperation." In this context, she expressed concern at the problem of European Community protectionism.

As the region faces protectionism in Europe and the United States, the expert argues, the region will shift to increase links with countries like Japan, the Soviet Union, China, Brazil and India, that are disposing themselves in this direction.

"They are developing a trade network with joint ventures and giving favourable credits," she asserted. The Soviet Union, she pointed out, "is having a new profile of pragmatism and is dramatically improving relations with GCC and other states in the region, particularly Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey and Jordan."

She said that Jordan was "opening up on the region," and that its package economic measures that were taken recently and the general posture indicate that there is a tendency towards pragmatism and liberalisation. "This is a pattern that needs to be developed."

The Swedish expert is delivering a lecture Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the World Affairs Council. She will review similarities between new economic developments in Jordan and Sweden and a comparison between the Swedish experience of regional cooperation with that of Jordan.

Jordan Times

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
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Telephone: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Whose turn now?

IN his speech accepting a honorary membership of the Cambridge Union Society at the University of Cambridge Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein poignantly outlined not only how Israel has been frustrating all efforts aimed at attaining a just and durable peace in the Middle East, but also how its aggressive policies have escalated the arms race in the region by stock-piling a nuclear arsenal and by introducing space satellite technology to this part of the world.

This alarming situation His Majesty cautioned has led the Arab countries to seek military balance with Israel. As the U.S. is apparently committed to keep Israel's military prowess superior to the collective Arab defence forces, the Arab World is bound to have a head on collision with Washington over this commitment.

All such confrontations could of course be avoided if as His Majesty King Hussein has counselled, the improvement in international relations in general and East-West in particular could be brought to bear on the region of the Middle East as well. The Arab side, including the Palestinians, have spoken their word and have accepted U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. It is high time that Israel is called upon to pronounce unequivocally its position on these resolutions, by word as well as deed. It is utterly unfair to ask only the Arabs about what they are prepared to say and do for peace. It is high time that the international community addresses the same inquiry to the Israelis as well. Even more relevant is the question of what the United Nations is prepared to do to implement the very resolutions that have become the accepted legitimate basis for the settlement of Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is no longer sufficient for the United Nations, including the Security Council, to express the applicability of these resolutions. What is urgently needed is to have the Security Council pronounce itself on how it views the machinery needed to enforce these resolutions, as it has done in the past with other resolutions. The whole international community, save Washington and Tel Aviv, have opted for the international peace conference on the Middle East as the most effective machinery to implement the twenty years old resolutions. His Majesty King Hussein has reiterated Arab support for this international peace conference under U.N. auspices. The Arab and international choice of this avenue for effecting peace in the Middle East is deep-rooted and well vindicated. If the remaining stumbling blocks in the path of the international conference could be overcome or better still persuaded to yield to common sense and international unanimity, the achievement of peace between Arabs and Israel would become imminent.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

THE theme of the three Arabic dailies Sunday was King Hussein's speech to the Cambridge Union Society of England in which he discussed the Middle East situation and urged the international community to help establish peace by ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. The speech was marked with clarity and objectivity and represented an appeal to world leaders and peace loving nations to end Israel's intransigence, solve the Palestine problem and establish peace in the Middle East. Al Ra'i daily said. It echoed the King's warning that unless Israel's ambitions are curtailed nothing can stop it from further augmenting its nuclear arsenal which could trigger a world war. The monarch made it clear that the PLO and the Arabs in general have shown flexibility and accepted U.N. Security Council resolutions, clearly declaring their orientation towards peace based on justice which should entail the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab lands, the paper noted. It said that the King's emphasis on these points and his call for an international conference should prompt the world community to seriously consider steps that can lead to peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the European Community nations for their failure to recognise the independent Palestinian state. The community's Rhodes meeting discussed major world issues including the situation in the Middle East, but it was surprising not to hear the Europeans clearly and openly supporting the Palestine state, says Abdul Rahim Omar. Today, U.S. policies in the Middle East have brought untold damage not only to America's interests but also those of Europe which on more than one occasion voiced its dissatisfaction with Washington's actions, the writer says. What the Arabs had hoped to hear was an open recognition of the Palestine state at the Rhodes meeting not an implicit approval of U.S. policies, the writer adds. He says that Europe's stance could therefore be described as no different from that which materialised a decade ago at the Venice summit.

Al Dustour daily reiterates the King's call on the world community to help implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which are designed to bring about peace based on Israel's total withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. The council resolutions serve as a basis for the establishment of peace, and as international peace conference should therefore be held to implement them and to find a formula for a settlement to the conflict between Israel and the Arab states, the paper called. The paper repeated the King's reminder to the world that the Arabs at their Fcz summit meeting and the Amman extraordinary summit last year have proved to be oriented towards a genuine peace; and the PLO through its Algiers proclamation, has shown the world it was no terrorist group but a representative of a people striving to achieve peace based on justice. It also quoted the King's reminder to the world that it was Israel which had aborted all bids for ending the conflict in the Middle East region.

Sawti Al Shaab daily said that the King's address in Cambridge shed more light on the Middle East problem, emphasising the need for an international conference that can pave the way for a just and durable peace. The paper said with its recognition of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine, the PLO has thus met all the requirements to qualify it as a partner in the peace negotiations.

One way of cutting deficit

IT HAS been said that the disease of AIDS is nature's answer to promiscuity. Now it is being asserted that fiscal and economic considerations are humanity's response to unchecked armament worldwide. The situations of both the United States and the Soviet Union are clear cases in point. With the United States facing perpetual hundreds of billions of dollars in budget deficit, ever since President Ronald Reagan assumed power in Washington in 1980 and embarked on a crash campaign to build-up the American military power at all costs, the whole fabric of the U.S. economy has become threatened and undermined.

This awesome financial and economic heritage has developed into the most pressing policy issue facing the Bush administration when it assumes power in January of 1989. President-elect Bush fully knows now that he has got to cut the U.S. budget deficit if the economy of his country is to be saved from going under and becoming a second rate economy. The U.S. dollar is under continuous pressures mainly because of this unbearable budget deficit and due to the worsening trade deficit that haunts the export-oriented country. But Bush has already put himself in a tight jacket as far as his options are concerned in dealing effectively with the devastating budget deficit. On one hand he has asked everybody to read his lips correctly when he said on many occasions during his presidential campaign that there will be no new taxes. Some observers have cynically suggested that by promising not to impose new taxes Bush did not in fact rule out increases in old taxes. The American people as well as the whole international community must be watching the lips of Bush very carefully these days to see if they are moving in any new direction in the wake of his election as the new president of the

United States.

Bush has indeed been left with but one option to cut down on the U.S. budget deficit, namely, to curtail U.S. defence expenditures if he wants to remain true to his promises. There are already hints from the men he has been chosen to form his inner circle of advisers that there would be a zero growth in U.S. defence expenditure after allowing for inflation. Translated into real dollars and cents, Bush would be able to slash billions of dollars from the defence budget during his first term as president. In the process, disarmament, in the negative sense at least, would ensue. There is no doubt that the U.S. can no longer afford to maintain the military posture that it has been able to attain till now.

As the defeated Democratic candidate for president, Michael Dukakis, had reminded the American people, the U.S. has to reckon not only with military security but also with economic and social security as well. Sure Dukakis had lost the election, but in terms of popular vote, he was not so much behind Bush. To be exact, Dukakis got 46 per cent of the popular vote against 54 per cent for Bush. There are many political analysts in the U.S. and outside who maintain that for Bush to avoid becoming a one-term president, he would have to address the national budget issue head on. As new taxes have been ruled out, it becomes inevitable that cuts into the defence allocations will have to be made. The biggest winner from this economic and financial malaise is of course the cause of disarmament.

And what applies to Washington applies with equal vigour to Moscow. The whole future of glasnost and perestroika policies of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev hinges on diverting funds from military expenditures to civilian programmes. The Soviet

Union had been all along a more ardent supporter of disarmament policies because, inter alia, it felt more swiftly the pinch of economic, social and political costs of too much military spending. For the Soviet Union, cutting down on missiles, nuclear weapons and even nuclear testing means the saving of billions of rubles that can be spent on modernisation of the Soviet economy.

Whatever the true intent behind the calls for disarmament, positive or even negative, the end result is most favourable to humanity and human life. Of all the basic rights that man calls for, the right to life has been highlighted as the most basic. The Soviet Union has championed this right as superior to all other rights and has construed it to mean not only the availability of medical attention, food and shelter but also the freedom from wars and mass destructive weapons as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. And whereas the American stance on this right has been more constrained and given a more restrictive meaning and connotation, the American constitution did place the right of life ahead of all other rights including the rights to freedom and pursuit of happiness.

With more luck, the economies of all military oriented countries of the world would force upon them the option to slow down their military buildup. In our region of the world where Israel enjoys the biggest military might, the minute American aid to that country begins to recede the sooner Tel Aviv would become forced to lower its military posture and start seeking peace arrangement with the Arab side. In due course this situation is bound to occur as the American economy would soon become so fragile that it can no longer afford the billions of dollars that it diverts to Israel as grants and military assistance.

By Waleed Sadi

'Who's a Jew' debate has unleashed a terrible genie for American Jews

By Rabbi Louis Bernstein

THE LOD-BOUND EL AL flight 004 out of New York Sunday evening at the end of the traditional Thanksgiving holiday weekend had a cornucopia of missions from the U.S. — all hurrying here to express various and contrary views on the Who is a Jew issue.

We — I and my Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) colleagues, Rabbis Simha Krauss and Haskell Lookstein — came to speak to our Orthodox colleagues and comrades in the Religious Zionist movement, in the Chief Rabbinate and in the other Orthodox parties of our opposition to amending the Law of Return.

In August 1986, the RCA executive committee established the policy of favouring removal of the issue from the political arena and urging that the matter be turned over to the Chief Rabbinate, Giyyur — conversion to Judaism — is a religious, spiritual, personal and confidential affair and should be so treated. With a

modicum of goodwill by all concerned, this highly personal and painful issue can be solved discreetly on an individual basis.

The RCA's only mentor in its more than 50 years of existence has been Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Similarly, Yeshiva University's spokesman is its president, Rabbi Professor Norman Lamm. Rabbi Lamm made his position clear in a speech to the conference of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in Philadelphia Sunday. It is akin to that of the RCA.

Neither Yeshiva U. nor RCA is monolithic, and differing but respected opinions emanate from their extended families. Before leaving for Israel, we conducted a spot check with 20 Orthodox rabbis serving synagogues throughout the U.S., and rabbis usually associated with the haredi camp were among those who voiced near unanimous approval of the RCA's position.

Our primary concern is with Israel's security. There are worrisome signs associated with the changing of the guard in

Washington. Wolf Blitzer's recent articles in *The Jerusalem Post* accurately mirrored these concerns. The U.S. news media have been far more favourable to the PLO's Alger declaration than the State Department headed by a sympathetic secretary.

The intifada has harmed Israel's position in American public opinion. To the discerning eye, it is becoming increasingly evident that the Arabs in the U.S. have taken a leaf out of American Jewry's book and are beginning to coalesce as a lobbying force.

To cope with even only one of these developments requires a united Jewry. Yet they have all been overshadowed by the Who is a Jew furor, which is receiving extensive coverage in the American news media.

A terrible genie has been unleashed — to the horror of Jewish leaders. Jewish groups and individuals have brought the issue to U.S. government elements, some even asking that American aid be withheld from Israel if the

amendment is passed.

Jewish congressmen have been asked to sign a joint letter to Prime Minister Shamir on this issue (some have wisely refused to do so). Federation funds have been used to subsidise trips to Israel of non-Jewish congressmen to convey the wrath of their Jewish constituents. Such blatant interference in Israel's internal matters by American legislators I fraught with danger for all Jews.

American Orthodox resents the use for political-parishan purposes of communal funds raised for charitable purposes. A good part of the deficit that Meir Shitrit, the treasurer of the Jewish Agency, associated with the Who is a Jew controversy could be covered by the costs of the newspaper ads in Israel and the U.S. and the chain of missions to Israel and Washington. Still, the charge contributed to the anti-Orthodox hysteria. He knows that the Jewish Agency's budgetary problems stem out from Who is a Jew, but from the deliberate decision of the same federation

leaders to retain more funds for local needs in the U.S. American Orthodox representatives in the Jewish Agency oppose this trend.

And American Orthodox is appalled by the surge of anti-Orthodox sentiment. It has begun to affect Orthodox employees of federations and organisations. It has touched ordinary business relationships.

We have come to discuss with our Israeli colleagues the dangers inherent in sheer friction. I told a Conservative leader on the plane that were I a Conservative leader, I would be in the forefront of the fight to amend the law. Conservatism claims to be a halachic movement, and leading Orthodox personalities in Israel have admitted that secular courts in Israel would have to rule that it abides by halacha, even if not in the traditional sense of the term.

All of Orthodox Jewry rejects and resents the allegations of its opponents that it says that non-Orthodox Jews are not Jews.

As for the Reform Movement, which until recent times existed primarily because of its historic

opposition to Zionism — it has been given a new lease of life.

Mrs. Yehudit Huebner, who for some 20 years dealt with this problem in the Interior Ministry, asked me what I would do if I were the official in charge in the Interior Ministry if confronted with the file of a Reform convert. I said I would sign quickly, and the issue would as quickly disappear.

Regrettably, very few Reform Jews come to Israel and fewer, if any, of the olim are converts.

And finally, we are here to reiterate to our Israeli brethren that Orthodox's commitment to them and to the State of Israel is unconditional and unequivocal. It is our children, who are the bulk of the olim, and Orthodox has not weakened its concern during these troubled times. We shall continue to support Israel with all our resources — with our funds, family, and very being, regardless of how this issue is resolved.

Let others make the same commitment — *The Jerusalem Post*.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

his second visit to Cairo in 10 days. It was not clear how long his stay would be.

He has been touring Arab states since the Palestine National Council (PNC) proclaimed a Palestinian state. The recent PNC decisions will be the main crux of his address to the U.N.

"I hope (Arafat's) the speech will be successful and that it will convince the international world opinion more and more of the Palestinian issue which we consider the main cause for instability in the region," Mubarak said.

"I am sure that the American, European, international and even the Israeli public opinion want peace and support it and we all work for peace," he added.

'Jordan heir to message of Great Arab Revolt'

(Continued from page 1)

Arab identity, which unifies all Arabs despite varying regional backgrounds," the Regent said.

Prince Hassan stressed that Jordan adheres to centrism and moderation, thus serving as a civilised example respecting constructive pluralism that enriches rational dialogue and contributes to the community's advancement.

Prince Hassan noted that "the citizen — the responsible and productive citizen — is the dearest resources of this country."

"Jordan has completed the infrastructure for the educational development process

and it is in the process of maintaining this infrastructure and ensuring its continuous performance," he said. "Perceiving the educational process as a continuous development for the whole society requires flexibility for absorbing any new developments and interacting with such developments with a view to improving and tightening the gap between the requirements of the new society and the educational system thus, enabling it to face the contemporary challenges while maintaining our originality which is derived from our Arab and Muslim culture," he said.

Prince Hassan emphasised the need for continuous evaluation of the educational process and for developing all stages of education.

Prince Hassan said that the objective of the educational development was to upgrade the educational output and to achieve conformity between the educational process and the labour market.

Prince Hassan also said that Jordan has to absorb 25,000 students in its schools every year, due to the natural population growth rates. The number of students is about 950,000 and the number of teachers is 37,000, he noted.

Prince Hassan said the government would build 6,000 schools during the next 10 years

Israelis raid W. Bank villages

(Continued from page 1)

should have been tried in military rather than civil court. They vowed to raise the compensation money collectively.

But Arabs said the sentence was too light.

"The sentence is very light."

said Odeh Rantisi, former deputy mayor of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. "This means disrespect for life given by God. This is the law of the jungle, where the strong kill the weak."

The maximum sentence for manslaughter is 20 years.

Government to cut deficits

(Continued from page 1)

cash from more than 100,000 foreigners working in Jordan, he said.

Tarawneh said public spending, including about \$800 million on debt servicing and \$350 million on oil imports, accounted for around 60 per cent of the economy's foreign currency require-

ments in 1988. The government had not considered resorting to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a short or medium-term loan.

"We don't feel there was a need to go to the IMF. We are meeting our obligations on foreign debt and keeping our credit rating," Tarawneh said.

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Alec Guinness turns into arms negotiator

By Heinz Peter Dietrich
Reuter

LONDON — Oscar-winning British actor Sir Alec Guinness needed to know what it's like being a Soviet negotiator in disarmament talks. So he asked the Soviets.

Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin invited Guinness, preparing himself for his first appearance on the London stage for a decade, to lunch at the embassy. There the two discussed the two-hour-long drama in which Guinness, 74, is starring — "A Walk in the Woods" by American writer Lee Blessing.

"I'm not sure whether I liked the play. I greatly liked the part," Guinness said in an interview. "I usually don't think in those terms and think about the play first but the part did appeal to me."

Blessing's play, which first opened in New York last February, is based on a secret meeting between Soviet arms negotiator Yuli Kvitsinsky and his American counterpart Paul Nitze in Geneva in 1982.

To unblock a stalemate in intermediate nuclear force (INF) negotiations, the two men, during a walk in woods in Geneva, reached an informal agreement to limit the number of U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles.

The deal, which did not become publicly known until early in 1983, was rejected by both the United States and the Soviet Union.

It nevertheless was part of the route towards the INF-treaty signed last December by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev which eliminates ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometres.

Smoking a cigarette in his dressing room in London's West End comedy theatre, Guinness said he believed it was the "human level" that drives things forward rather than arguments or military actions.

"It's quite clear to me that the fact that Gorbachev and (British Prime Minister) Mrs. Thatcher got on when they met did more on the human level to ease tension than anything they might have talked about."

Guinness plays an elderly

"A Walk in the Woods", is based on a secret meeting between Soviet arms negotiator

Yuli Kvitsinsky and his American counterpart Paul Nitze in Geneva in 1982.

Soviet diplomat who has no doubt that the talks will lead to nothing since their superiors on both sides are not really in-

terested in arms deals.

American actor Edward Herrmann is his ambitious U.S. counterpart who becomes irritated

when the Soviet offers him friendship and wants to talk about "frivolous" matters rather than arms control.



Sir Alec Guinness holding a copy of his book, *Blessings in Disguise*. The book, which has topped the list of best-sellers in Britain, is about the actor's life.

Guinness, who signed a six-month contract for the play, says he prefers theatre to film, although he enjoyed filming and acting as the memorable George Smiley in the television series based on John le Carré's "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" and "Smiley's People."

His long list of films include the Oscar-winning "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "Tunes of Glory," "Lawrence of Arabia," and "Dr. Zhivago," as well as the enormously successful sci-fi epic "Star Wars."

"I prefer the actual life in the theatre, but so much of the stuff I've been offered in recent years I was either unable to do because I had film commitments or I just saw it as rubbish," he said.

"I've just been offered a part as a KGB character in a film but I thought I can't carry on," said Guinness, who acts with a delightful Russian accent and brilliant language of gestures.

He has heard that "Walk in the Woods" might be staged in Moscow next spring with Soviet actors. Although he would like to work in Moscow, he considered it risky to play a Russian among Russians.

"I would be frightened to play Chekov in Moscow or Leningrad," he said.

Asked if he was personally interested in arms affairs, Guinness said he was fascinated by hearing that each week something new happened in this area.

But he thought it was very complicated for an actor to be objective about something he was involved in.

"Now that I'm playing this part I'm seeing things from the Russian's point of view which is rather downbeat, saying 'nothing will happen, we just go on keeping this (arms) balance'."

Although he did not think of himself as a "political animal," he feels tension has eased since Gorbachev took office.

But he also sees some truth in a scene from the play when he as the Soviet veteran tells his U.S. counterpart: "We signed treaties before and the next day something else happens."

Guinness said: "I think there should be agreements but do they make a great difference? One just wants to get rid of the weapons."



Sheikh Feisal and his falcon friend

Falconry goes first class

By Christopher Dickey

SHARJAH — Word reached Sheikh Feisal Al Qasbi at the wheel of his Mercedes 560 SEL: some curlew tracks had been spotted about 15 miles away, but the sun was setting. Phoning ahead to his falconers to meet him, Sheikh Feisal, the head of the royal guard of the Gulf emirate of Sharjah, gunned his car down the freeway. Within minutes he reached the falconers, awaiting him at an off ramp that runs straight into the bare red dunes of the desert. With two peregrine falcons and three four-wheel-drive cars, the hunt was on: a furious race through wadis, over ridges, sliding at high speed across the sand to the place the curlew tracks were found. There a falconer named Gareeb slipped the hood off his bird's head. A curlew sprinted forward on the ground, then took off in flight at the blast of a car horn. Gareeb, his right hand on the wheel, launched the falcon from the gauntlet on his left, sending it up in a wide circle over the dunes.

"It's something in our system, in our blood."

Falcons have been flying all over the Middle East this hunting season — mostly in first class. Black-winged peregrines and big brown-winged sakers sit, hooded and quiet, at the feet of sheikhs from Bahrain and Qatar travelling to their hunting grounds aboard 737s and Tristars. Saudi princes rent whole rooms at the Damascus Sheraton for their falcons, hoping the hunting will be good in the plains and hills of Syria (Pakistan, Iran and India also are favourite hunting grounds.) Falconers who stay closer to home employ professional trackers to search day after day for signs of prey — the heavy, long-legged houbara bustards or the smaller curlews. On a particularly good day for hunting, entire executive suites may empty in a city like Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

There is evidence of Middle East falconry going back to the eighth century B.C., making it one of the oldest of Bedouin traditions. In an era of oil wealth and urbanisation, it is an anachronism. But for that very reason, it is prized. Like camel racing, it gives modern Arabs a link to their nomadic, tribal past. Today the sport is practiced with high-tech refinements: falcons are fitted with tiny radio transponders in their tail feathers so they can be tracked with portable



telemetry systems if they get lost. For identification purposes, some have microchips implanted in their skins that can be scanned like the bar codes on a box of breakfast cereal. Others must get special treatment, like the gyrfalcon, a native of the Arctic and a spectacularly regal bird much coveted by Arab princes. It must be kept in air-conditioned rooms; it cannot survive more than 12 hours in the wild if left in the heat of the shadeless desert.

No expense has been spared in devotion to the sport. Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, one of the ruling princes of Dubai, has built a sophisticated hospital and laboratory devoted exclusively to research and care for camels and falcons. The viral laboratory has more than \$1 million worth of sophisticated equipment, according to staff members. At first, falconers were reluctant to bring in their birds, according to David Remple, the American veterinarian — and falconer — who runs the hospital. But this year he expects the facility to examine and treat about 1,000 hawks for ailments ranging from acute malnutrition to bumblefoot, an infection of the talons sometimes brought on by badly designed perches. As a result of such observations, many up-to-date perches are covered with Astro-turf. "Tradition takes precedence over change," says Lindsay Oaks, another vet at the hospital. But in the case of falconry, a few modern touches help keep tradition alive — Newsweek.

A childbirth picture book

By David Sassoon

CHILDBIRTH is a universal fact of human life. Regardless of where or how people live, everyone is conceived and is born in the same way.

Yet a majority of women and men around the world have little understanding of the process that creates life, and this ignorance quite needlessly is the source of great suffering, illness and death. In many areas of the world, more women still die of childbirth than of any disease.

The aim of the Universal Childbirth Picture Book and its author, Fran P. Hosken, is to change all that by making available to the largest number of people, regardless of language or literacy, the facts about reproduction from a woman's point of view.

Yet the book is also addressed to men because, as Hosken writes in the introduction, "it is especially important that men begin to see the process of conception and birth from a woman's view to understand how a child is created and what a woman goes through to give life."

Hosken says that when a woman chooses to have a child, she assumes the responsibility to take good care of herself. A woman herself must be healthy to bear healthy children. Similarly, her mate must fulfill his responsibility to support his partner through the process — and especially to understand the nutritional needs of mother and fetus. "Childbirth is the shared outcome of a shared process," Hosken said.

The Picture Book shows the process of reproduction in 34 drawings, accompanied by short factual explanations, a teaching guide with discussion points, a glossary and a resource list. The book is perfectly titled: it shows the universal process of childbirth through pictures, and, hence, is universally accessible as well.

Hosken prints the Picture Book in English, French, Spanish and Arabic editions, and has distributed copies in 120 countries. Chetna Publishers in India publishes the book in four Indian languages; the Ministry of Health in both Ethiopia and Fiji have translated the text for local use, and it has been serialised in both Hindi and Bengali. Marshall Islands are currently adapting the Picture Book for their own use as well.

Hosken is not certain how many women have been reached with the fundamental knowledge of their bodies since she began publishing the book in 1981. She knows she has distributed 25,000 copies. She knows the Indian government alone has ordered 35,000 copies from Chetna Publishers. And she knows that particularly in francophone Africa, midwives have been reached with the knowledge contained in the book. Almost all of those copies have been sent for use by communicators who pass on the message to large groups of women that nobody has counted.

The design of the book makes it adaptable for a variety of uses. The staples which bind the book can be removed so that the drawings can be used one at a time, mounted on boards, or hung up

in clinics and classrooms. All the pages are hole punched so that the discussion guide, text and glossary can be filed in a notebook. And one page of drawings is left blank so that teachers can fill in their own illustrations about locally available foods that a mother needs to eat. The simple line drawings, made by Marcia Williams, a medical illustrator, show the faces of different ethnic groups. Hosken also has made the Picture Book available in large flip-chart form and as a colour slide programme.

Comprehensive scope

The scope of the book is comprehensive. It describes developmental growth of the young girl through womanhood, showing both internal and external biological changes. It explains menstruation as well as the changes that result from pregnancy. The Picture Book also describes the male reproductive organs and explains impregnation, fertilisation and embryonic development. There are three pages on nutrition in pregnancy and during lactation, and explanations of unusual positions of the baby and the variety of birthing positions are also included.

The accompanying narrative is concise, easily understandable, and non-judgmental. Together with the drawings, the text removes the discomfort and embarrassment commonly evoked by human sexual function, and unarguably shows how and why clear understanding of reproduction is essential for everyone. "Millions of women and girls

continue to live in fear and ignorance of their own bodies and life-giving functions," Hosken writes in her introduction. "The biological facts of reproduction continue to be the best kept secrets in many parts of the world, often distorted by damaging myths, taboos, and fears that threaten and debase the lives and dignity of women."

Female circumcision

Since first publishing the book, Hosken has produced three supplements with eight additional drawings each: one on nutrition, one on excision, and one on infibulation, the latter two topics being descriptions of the dangers of common forms of female circumcision. Hosken said that she receives a vast amount of correspondence from the grass roots appreciating her material, and cited in particular many letters from men in Sierra Leone who are teaching women not to go to secret societies where female circumcisions are performed.

Hosken first began her involvement in women's health issues in mid-1970's with the first study ever produced on female circumcision. Called the *Hosken Report: Genital/Sexual Mutilation of Females*, the study has laid the factual foundation for the efforts now progressing to eradicate the practice that damages the health and well-being of millions of women in Africa and the Middle East.

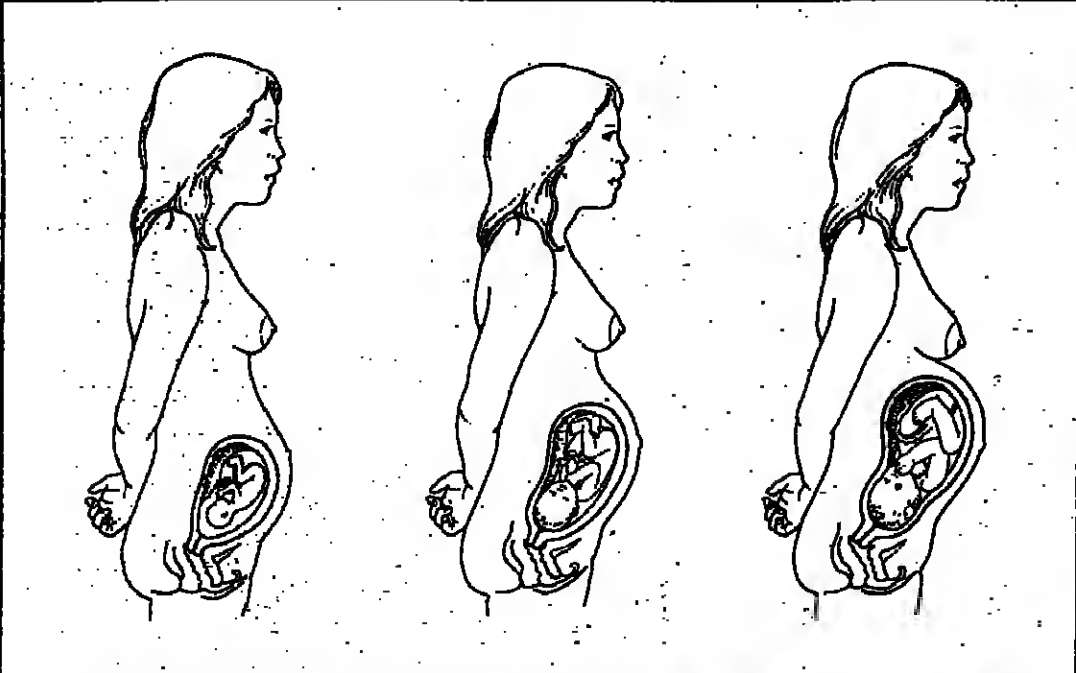
Since 1975, too, Hosken has been publishing the *Women's International Network News*, or *WIN News*, which is now an 80-page quarterly magazine that carries international information about women and women's groups. A participatory clearing-house of information, its pages are open to contributions from participants of all backgrounds, beliefs, nationalities and age-groups.

Hosken does all this almost single-handedly out of her home in Lexington, Massachusetts.

"If I spent money on an office, I couldn't afford to send the books out overseas," she said, "and I don't waste two hours every day coming and going from work."

Hosken supports her efforts through grants, voluntary contributions, subscriptions to *WIN News*, and sale of the Picture Book.

She says she is willing, however, to send up to 10 copies of the Picture Book free for programmes in developing countries. Arrangements are made on a case by case basis — Action for Children, UNICEF.



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AIR-INDIA

Biggest trade meeting in history opens today

Islamic investment companies leave Egyptians high and dry

MONTREAL, Canada (AP) — Negotiators from more than 100 countries gathered here for the biggest trade meeting in history, seeking to resolve major disputes over commerce involving a myriad of items from coffee beans to computer chips.

The signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT, are meeting to review the progress made since a four-year negotiating round was launched in the Uruguayan resort town of Punta Del Este two years ago. Negotiators began arriving Saturday for the talks which officially begin Monday.

While negotiators meet behind closed doors to discuss how to proceed in the last two years of the Uruguay Round, their cabinet ministers will be called upon to provide the needed political momentum to overcome a host of obstacles.

But widely differing agendas are on the table at the mid-term review, and observers are not holding out hope of major breakthroughs.

Overshadowing the meeting of the trade ministers is the spectre of growing protectionism in the shape of bilateral pacts and regional trading blocs, which bypass the GATT and could render it largely irrelevant.

The 1992 merger of the 12 European Community (EC) economies is of serious concern to the United States. The just-signed free trade agreement between the United States and Canada is viewed with some anxiety by the Europeans and Japan. Both the Europeans and the Americans are frowning at talk of increased regional cooperation among the industrialized giants of the Pacific and Asia.

The United States, the world's largest trader, is mounting an aggressive campaign to bring the Uruguay Round to what it views as a successful conclusion. The Montreal talks "could make or break its chances for success,"

according to Clayton Yentler, the cabinet-level U.S. trade representative.

"The GATT can slide toward irrelevance, or recapture its moral force and clarity of purpose," Yentler said at a series of speeches he delivered in Washington prior to leaving for Canada.

Defining the European agenda, chief EC negotiator Willy de Clercq said his team is also determined to make the trade talks a success and prove to the world that "Europe is a partner and not a fortress."

Four issues are emerging as the most divisive in the complex Montreal talks:

— A demand by the United States and 13 other agricultural exporters to eliminate domestic and export farm subsidies;

— A demand by the world's developing nations to eliminate tariffs on their export of natural goods;

— A U.S.-led push to regulate the trade in services such as banking, transportation and tourism;

— A U.S.-led push to protect copyrights, trademarks and patents for such items as computer software and pharmaceuticals.

The farthing support issue is the bitterest issue, pitting the United States against the EC, which favours reducing subsidies but rejects eliminating them altogether.

The United States claims government subsidies of farm commodities distort international trade and cost taxpayers more than \$200 billion annually.

In an effort to ease tensions, the United States moved away from the deadline it set for total subsidy elimination by the year

2,000, but it is still adamant that GATT signatories commit themselves to some deadline for removing all agriculture supports.

The United States is willing to adopt a compromise proposed by the Australian-led Cairns Group of 13 major farm exporters which calls for a two-year freeze on subsidies — if it gets a commitment on the eventual elimination of the supports.

The United States contends that the 40-year GATT must be modernized to include the growing trade in services and to provide protection of copyrights and patents, known as intellectual property.

But a bloc of developing countries, led by India and Brazil, are balking at inclusion of the services trade in the treaty. They contend that their service industries are non-existent or undeveloped and say they would not gain anything by regulating such trade.

Some members of the same bloc also object to the discussion of intellectual property, arguing that GATT is not the forum for such talks and that protection measures would greatly increase the cost of importing technology, medicine and other items on which they are dependent.

Negotiators agree on only one thing: That after two years of talks, there is very little common ground on these two subjects.

Some of the developing countries have suggested a trade-off: They will support the talks on services if the industrialized nations eliminate tariffs on so-called tropical products, including coffee, bananas and coconut oil.

Not all the negotiating sessions will be stormy. There is near agreement on at least a semblance of progress on such issues as improving the dispute-settlement mechanism of the GATT, liberalising the flow of international investment and instituting a periodic trade policy review

CAIRO (AP) — An experiment by well-heeled Muslim fundamentalists to set up investment companies appealing to religious feelings has gone sour.

For years, more than 100 Islamic investment companies had seemed to work perfectly. By late 1987, hundreds of thousands of mainly small-time investors were participating in the companies' profit-sharing plans.

But all was not well behind the scenes. Rumours circulated of illegal dealing by many of the big companies, including black marketing, export of capital, money laundering and the improper skimming off new depositors' funds to pay obligations to old investors.

Finally, last August, the government stepped in. State-owned newspapers published allegations by government officials of illegal activities by the company. In November, authorities enacted a law that effectively brought the companies under the control of the central bank and the economics ministry.

The result: Deep legal trouble for most of the companies, which were required to provide documentation of their affairs if they wanted to stay in business under the new guidelines. Thirteen of the 104 companies have provided such documents, while 23 have declared they would liquidate and return investors' funds.

Many investors are still facing long, tormenting waits while the fate of their investment companies is determined. Some of them will lose much of their savings. And officials have said that 68 companies and individuals connected with them are liable for prosecution.

The Islamic investment movement was begun more than 10 years ago by Al Sherif Co., a plastic manufacturer that is among the companies in full compliance with the new law. It drew deposits from Egyptian workers

in oil-rich Arab states by promising high returns through a system prescribed by the 1,400-year-old Islamic legal and social system, Sharia.

Sharia bans interest payments on loans or deposits but allows profit-sharing, with its attendant risks. Islamic investment companies draw their profits from investing in existing companies or setting up new projects, then splitting their profits or losses with depositors.

The biggest Islamic investment company, Al Rayyan Co., worth more than \$1 billion, has come under particularly heavy fire in recent weeks. Attorney General Gamal Sbounan ordered the detention of 49 of its main officials, their family members and the company's accountants, and froze their assets. He said their illegal operations jeopardised depositors' funds.

Under supervision of the Ministry of Justice, security officers sealed the company's many warehouses, jewelry stores, restaurants and other establishments.

"I've been coming here to get my return for three months now," Saddiq Ahmad, who had deposited 2,000 pounds (about \$870) with Al Rayyan Co., said as he stood one October day with other disgruntled depositors outside company headquarters.

"Everytime they tell me to come back next week. Now they say they have no money to give us. What am I to do?"

She was among about 175,000 people who deposited money, sometimes life's savings, with Al Rayyan Co., which operated about four years before its closure.

There is no official estimate of the holdings of the Islamic companies, but newspapers have reported totals of 6 billion to 8 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.6 billion to \$3.5 billion). Additionally, unknown amounts are said to be stashed in banks abroad.

Islamic investment companies grew rapidly in Egypt, aided by the spread of Islamic fervor in recent years. Company owners, pictured in newspaper advertisements wearing white robes and skullcaps, and long, bushy beards typical of Muslim fundamentalists, appealed to investors' piety as well as investment sense.

Targeting especially Egyptian expatriates during the early 1980s Arab oil boom, the companies soon were collecting more remittances in hard currency than banks. Since the mid-1980s, the companies regularly have returned up to three times the 10 per cent average interest rate offered by banks.

Company names, many with Islamic connotation, sprouted along highways and in cities in jewelry stores, quality butcher shops and alcohol-free restaurants. One investment company ran a summer camp and hotel on Egypt's western Mediterranean coast.

But the government began to suspect dubious activity last year,

soon after reports began appearing of enormous losses by two of the larger companies from speculating in gold and silver on European markets.

Many Egyptians felt the government acted to curtail a potentially dangerous increase in the companies' power, and because of indications that some may have been funding religious extremist groups that demand immediate and total implementation of Islamic laws throughout Egypt. The government claims 90 per cent of Egypt's legal code already conforms to Islamic law.

The government said it acted simply to protect depositors, and has vowed to try its best to refund them. By last summer, many companies were postponing payments, sending customers into frenzies and prompting firmer government measures, such as banning company owners from travel.

A week before the November deadline for compliance with the new law, Prime Minister Atef Sedki used a rarely invoked power to issue a military order freezing Al Rayyan's monetary transactions retroactive to April 1988.

"What is the government doing to us?" protested one depositor after the Al Rayyan freeze was announced. "We knew these company owners were thieves, but we were receiving our monthly dividends. The state is killing us swiftly with its own hands, instead of leaving us to die slowly," he said. "We will never see our money."

Bonn seeks closer ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann said Saturday his country is negotiating two agreements with this oil-rich gulf state on averting double taxation and protection of foreign investments.

Bangemann, who arrived Friday on a two-day visit, made the remarks after separate talks with Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi, Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khalid and Electricity and Water Minister Abdullah Al Rgubah.

He also held follow-up talks with chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saqr, who visited West Germany last month with a high-ranking delegation. "Bangemann's discussions with Al Saqr and Kuwaiti ministers centered on the prospect of investing more money in West Germany and carrying out joint ventures," said well-informed sources, speaking anonymously.

Kuwait is believed to have several hundred million dollars worth of investments in West Germany, including a 14 per cent stake in Daimler Benz, the automobile manufacturing concern.

The German minister told a press conference that his discussions covered the prospect of expanding merchandise and economic cooperation between the two countries.

West Germany ranks third after Japan and the United States in terms of trade with Kuwait.

Rival governments struggle for control of Lebanon central bank

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's rival governments are struggling for control of the central bank, one of the last unified institutions in a country on the verge of partition.

Political sources said Sunday the battle over the bank was the main reason army commander General Michel Aoun closed the only road link between east Beirut and the west Friday.

An economist said west Beirut got more than half its fuel and wheat supplies from the east, while government offices in the east relied for funds on the central bank sited in the west.

Reports in several rightist newspapers said Sunday the central bank had cut back funds for

15,000 troops led by Aoun, who also heads an interim military government.

Aoun's administration is vying for power against civilian cabinet led by Acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss.

The newspapers claimed the bank, under pressure from Hoss's government, was still paying soldiers' salaries but was withholding funds previously allocated to army medical services and weapons' maintenance.

The central bank has over 60 per cent of Lebanon's gold reserves worth \$3.6 billion and \$1.25 million in foreign currency reserves, all stored in vaults safe from the street battles of the

13-year civil war.

"By taking this step (closing the crossing), they are seeking to pressure the central bank from which they are demanding 18.7 million liras (\$37,400)" justice minister and militia leader Nabih Berri told local newspapers published Sunday.

Hoss said Saturday night he had warned Aoun that any attempt to bring pressure on people living in west Beirut would be treated as a declaration of war.

Media reports said the bank had allocated 33.75 million Lebanese liras (\$67,500) to 15,000 troops led by Hoss-appointed Brigadier Sami Al Khatib.

They said the bank had turned down requests from Aoun's ministers for loans to buy essential foodstuffs.

Central bank governor Edmond Naim, who lives in the bank building and rarely leaves it for fear of assassination, has issued a statement denying he had turned down any loans or aid in any way been subjected to pressure.

"The central bank governor was not subjected to any pressure and he is funding and will continue to fund both governments for necessities and basics," the statement said.

Naim promised to supply both administrations with funds.

Cancer fears threaten Turkish fig trade

IZMIR, Turkey (R) — Fears in Europe of a link between cancer and figs is threatening Turkey's 400-year-old dried fig trade in the midst of the Christmas boom season.

The trade, the world's biggest, supports 60,000 growers and packers with annual exports of 40,000 tonnes from the Aegean port city of Izmir.

"If Europe doesn't buy, we're dead. These mountains are no use for anything else," said Noca-ti Cam, a village farmer in the main fig-growing belt 140 kilometres east of Izmir.

Sweden and Denmark banned figs for short periods last month, the start of the main Christmas sales season, an Israeli ban is still on and other countries are considering action.

"It's the worst scare yet... probably we will have two difficult years," said Alpaslan Besikcioglu, head of Turkey's Dried Fruit Exporters Association.

Britain, a key market since it ran Izmir's fig packing trade in the 19th century, had approved continued imports but would take a final decision this week, he said. The root of the scare is a

natural fungus by-product called Aflatoxin, found on peanuts, wheat, corn and some figs and shown to cause liver cancer in some animals.

Izmir food scientists — mobilised by several brief fig scares in Europe in recent years — provided detailed rebuttals of fears that the ancient fruit posed a threat.

A survey of regions where fig consumption is about half a kilogram a day — far above the European average — showed a below-average rate of liver cancer, they said.

Nevertheless since 1986 Turkish packing plants have used ultraviolet light to check figs for Aflatoxin.

"In our sampling of 7,000 tonnes exported this year, we found only three suspect figs at the last stage — and none of them had the toxin," said Mertem Duzbastilar, head of research at Izmir's Tans Fig Cooperative laboratory.

The scientists say figs contain a wealth of vitamins and, ironically, traces of benzaldehyde — a rare compound sometimes used to inhibit the growth of cancers. Turkish villagers use dried figs

as a staple food with olive oil or bread, bandage them to the skin to cure rashes and above all praise them as a male aphrodisiac.

The Turkish army serves figs at least once a week and in the past distributed them ahead of offensives.

Many see a plot behind the health scares — villagers have called it Europe's revenge for Turkish football successes and officials have linked it to opposition to Turkey's application to join the European Community.

"People die of cigarettes all the time, no one bans them. But it's easy to ban Turkish figs. There is some trick being played," said top Izmir export official Naim Sahillioglu.

Even so, Izmir's 40 fig exporters have decided that from next year all figs for export will need a government certificate declaring them free of Aflatoxin.

"We must do this, but it is ridiculous. Figs are one of the world's few natural foods. They grow semi-wild and the only fertiliser is manure. All we do is wash them and pack them," Besikcioglu said.

Analysts forecast strong world wheat market

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government and private analysts have said that the outlook for world wheat markets looks strong next year.

More land worldwide is expected to be devoted to wheat production in 1989 because of

strong crop prices and government incentives, including easing of land-tilting restrictions for farmers in the United States, said Bruce Weber, an economist with the U.S. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

In remarks at a session of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Agricultural Outlook Conference, Weber forecast that total harvested areas for wheat could rise five per cent to six per cent above 1988 levels to 230 million to 232 million hectares (568 to 573 million hectares) worldwide.

"If the recent upward trend in yields continues, the world should easily harvest a 1989 wheat crop in excess of 500 million tonnes," Weber said. "How favourable the growing season is will dictate how close the crop comes to the record 530 million harvest of 1986."

Weber noted that recent wheat use globally has exceeded 530 million tonnes, which has caused stocks worldwide to decline. Be-

cause production is likely to fall below wheat utilisation, Weber said "this sets the stage for another strong year for world wheat trade."

USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board projects that U.S. wheat and flour exports will decline in volume in fiscal year 1989 to 40.2 million tonnes from 41.5 million but the value will rise to \$5.9 billion from \$4.6 billion in 1988.

Richard Gady, vice president of economic research for Conagrab Inc., recommended that the U.S. government respond to world wheat demand by lowering from 10 per cent to five per cent the acreage reduction require-

ments for U.S. farmers to participate in the wheat programme in 1989. That would permit expanded U.S. production.

He also urged aggressive use of the export enhancement programmes under which the government subsidises grain sales to offset competition from the European Community and other suppliers.

"It appears that the wheat market is in a cyclically stronger period as world surpluses have been reduced and the demand environment is improved," said Gady. "This should provide U.S. producers an opportunity to put productive acres back to work and expect a reasonable return."

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Sunday Dec. 4, 1988 Central Bank official rates				
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	384.0	385.9
U.S. dollar	465.0	Dutch guilder	238.4	239.6
Pound Sterling	867.5	Swedish crown	77.5	77.9
Deutsche mark	269.9	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7
Swiss franc	322.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.9	129.5
French franc	79.0			

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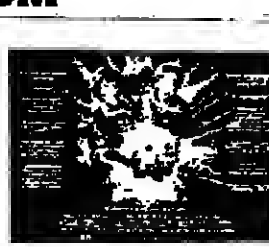
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Cinema

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NO MAN'S LAND

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



2.5 million homeless, 100,000 cattle lost

Bangladesh cyclone toll may hit 10,000

By Atiqul Alam
Reuters

DHAKA — Battered bodies floated in the Bay of Bengal Sunday after a cyclone and a towering tidal wave swept over islands off Bangladesh's coast, killing at least 1,600 people.

One official said at least 15,000 people were still missing and he feared the final death toll could be as high as 10,000.

"What we have so far are figures from the accessible areas those from the inaccessible areas are still awaited," he said. "My fear is that the final figure should be between 5,000 and 10,000."

President Hossain Mohammad Ershad called an emergency meeting of his newly-formed national disaster committee to coordinate aid to the survivors. But major opposition leaders refused an invitation to attend the meeting.

His government also appealed for aid, particularly from Japan and Canada, two countries which gave substantial help to Bangladesh during past disasters.

Military helicopters dropped food and drinking water to survivors on the islands and navy ships searched for survivors blown out to sea during Tuesday's storm.

One official said the navy had picked up seven survivors floating on rafts. Two of them were unconscious.

One survivor told Reuters he clung to a makeshift wooden raft before the navy picked him up 15 miles out to sea.

Officials said the navy had found many bodies in the sea. It was the worst catastrophe to strike this poor country in 20 years and came after floods killed 3,000 people in August and September.

Coastal areas were swept by five-metre tidal waves generated by the 165 kilometre per hour cyclone which roared in off the Bay of Bengal.

An official said preliminary estimates showed 2.5 million people had lost their homes, at least 100,000 cattle were destroyed and more than 5,000 square kilometres of rice and other crops damaged.

A presidential aide said Ershad called a meeting of his 170-man national disaster committee Monday to discuss emergency measures to combat the effects of the cyclone.

The committee, headed by him, includes politicians, teachers, senior military officers, technicians, civil servants, doctors and journalists.

But major opposition leaders refused to attend the meeting and accused Ershad of running an illegal government.

"We have nothing to discuss with a government which is not legal," said Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of a seven-party alliance.

"This government does not represent people and therefore we cannot take part in any of the deliberations organised by it," said Sajeda Choudhury, a leader of another eight-party grouping.

Both groups launched an unsuccessful campaign last year to force Ershad from power.

Ershad, who seized power in a military coup in 1982, ordered a parliamentary election last May in which his Jatiya Party won an absolute majority. Independent observers and the opposition leaders said few people voted.

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Three of the navy commandos who mutinied at Argentina's largest military base, Campo de Mayo, stand by an armoured vehicle there. The rebels were led by Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineldin (inset), who demanded the release of all jailed military personnel.

Argentina evacuates civilians amid revolt

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Authorities ordered civilians evacuated from an area surrounding a rebel stronghold in this capital Sunday and new military units were reported to have joined the insurrection.

Troop and tank movement was reported in several areas near Buenos Aires as loyal army units apparently prepared to obey President Raul Alfonsín's order to "suffocate" the three-day revolt. Troops also were reported en route from Neuquen, 1,200 kilometres southwest.

Mayor Carlos Brown of suburban San Martín said he had received orders to evacuate all civilians from the area surrounding a unit taken over Saturday by some 500 rebels led by Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineldin. Police, firemen and civil defence volunteers began evacuation of the working class residential area at 7:30 a.m. (0930 GMT).

Reporters outside the 10th logistical battalion reported that rebels appeared to be readying their defence and had moved a tank into position blocking the entrance.

Alfonsín, acting in his capacity as armed forces commander, sent a message to all military units early Sunday, asking them to "be alert to violent options of some groups that march against history and hide their real goals."

Although the majority of units throughout the country reported their loyalty, the official news agency Telam reported early Sunday that the 6th infantry regiment in Mercedes, 100 kilometres west of the capital, had joined the revolt led by Seineldin.



U.S. to send Bibles, gum to Soviets

NEW YORK (R) — Americans will be allowed to send Bibles and copies of the Talmud as well as computers and bubble gum to the Soviet Union for the first time under a pact signed Saturday, the New York Times reported. The contract was agreed by New York businessman Sidney Reiner and the Soviet U.S. trade delegation, with Reiner to begin parcel shipments "in a few months," the newspaper said in its Sunday edition. The Times quoted an official of the Kremlin's official trade corporation, Amtorg, as confirming that contracts were pending with several companies — including Reiner's Cosmos Parcel Corporation — to resume shipments ended by the Soviet Union in 1984.

New Zealand film wins prize

HONOLULU (AP) — "Illustrious Energy," a New Zealand film about Chinese immigrants prospecting for gold in that country in the 1890s, has now the East-West Centre Award at the Hawaii International Film Festival. The award is given to a film that "best promotes the festival goal of promoting understanding among the people of Asia, the Pacific and the United States." The annual festival, which concluded here Saturday, is the eighth to be sponsored by the East-West Centre at the University of Hawaii. "Illustrious Energy's" director and co-writer, Leon Narbey, was also honoured during Friday night's awards ceremony with the Eastman Kodak Award for Cinematography, for his earlier work as a cinematographer.

Nervous censors altered script

NEW YORK (R) — The original script of a radio show which caused a nationwide panic in 1938 reveals that broadcast censors, concerned by the script's realism, tried in vain to soften its disturbing potential. The typescript for Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds," to be sold at auction at Sotheby's here later this month, contains a number of changes made by censors at CBS radio, the show's broadcaster. Sotheby's Marsha Malinowski told Reuters the yellowing script shows nearly 30 changes suggested by CBS censors "to diminish the realistic tenor" of the piece. In a clear, bold hand, censors changed the names of New York landmarks such as the Museum of Natural History in an attempt to underline the show's fictional nature. The dramatization of a Martian invasion of New Jersey was aired on the eve of Halloween 50 years ago. It was so realistic that many listeners across the country panicked, crowding into church basements for safety and roaming the highways with guns.

Superman's love to study directing

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian native Margot Kidder, who played Lois Lane in all four Superman movies, will study directing for a year at the Canadian centre for Advanced Film Studies. She was one of 11 fellows announced by producer-director Norman Jewison, founder of the two-year-old centre. Kidder was born in Yellowknife in the northwest territories and started her acting career in Vancouver, British Columbia, before moving to Los Angeles.

Napoleon's invasion plan sold

PARIS (R) — The original manuscript of Napoleon Bonaparte's secret, and unfulfilled, plans to invade Britain fetched 125,000 francs (\$20,000) at a Paris auction last week. Bonaparte's scheme, penned in a crabbled hand while virtualising his Mediterranean fleet in the port of Toulon in 1803, was one of the major successes in a sale of 100 rare French manuscripts which went under the hammer at Drouot auction house. The manuscript listed the first French emperor's quixotic ideas on ways of invading the southern coastland of France's traditional enemy. Napoleon never managed to conquer Britain and was defeated by the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo in 1815. The Napoleon manuscript was one of the highlights of the auction, where one of the biggest successes was the sale of the complete first edition of playwright Molière's work for 1.9 million francs (\$320,000). Experts said this was probably the highest ever reached at auction for a work of the 17th-century writer.

U.S. study: Soviets unlikely to launch surprise attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is highly unlikely to launch a sudden military attack on North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces in Europe, despite fears of Western military leaders about a Pearl Harbour-type strike, a congressional study said Sunday.

The Soviets don't have enough well-trained forces to mount such a strike and would likely be detected by Western intelligence officials if they tried to prepare, said the review by the House of Representatives Armed Services Defence Policy Panel.

Soviet forces along the front with NATO countries are generally maintained at a lower level of readiness to fight than their NATO counterparts.

Even the best-prepared Soviet troops "would take at least a week before they were ready for offensive combat action," said the study, which was based on closed-door hearings by the panel last fall.

"The Soviets apparently do not believe they can best achieve their goals by virtue of a surprise attack that defeats NATO in a very few days," it said.

"Although NATO can never completely discount the possibility of a standing start surprise attack, the Soviets are apparently not preparing for such an attack," the study concluded.

The Soviets would face similar problems if they tried to prepare an attack with longer lead times of several weeks, permitting greater mobilisation, the study said.

The study cited three instances in which it said the Soviets took lengthy amounts of time to prepare for armed action: The Soviet military action in Afghanistan, the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the 1980 Polish crisis.

The possibility of a sneak attack, similar to the type mounted by Japan Dec. 7, 1941, against the U.S. navy in Hawaii, has long worried NATO planners.

Most often cited is the fear that the Soviets will attack West across the German border, where the United States maintains about 250,000 military personnel in West Germany.

"NATO's ground forces are generally more ready than Warsaw Pact ground forces," the study said.

The highest problem for NATO would be if the alliance delays mobilising for war in answer to obvious Warsaw Pact preparations, the study found.

"In this case, the Warsaw Pact gains a significant advantage when it has time to ready its forces for an attack and NATO does not respond," the study said. "The pact advantage builds until NATO mobilises."

The Soviets couldn't covertly mobilise because NATO intelligence would spot the preparations, the study said.

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Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto installs new cabinet

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto installed a 10-member cabinet Sunday, keeping the defence and finance portfolios for herself.

Bhutto, who took the oath of office Friday, stocked her government with stalwarts of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) except for Foreign Minister Sabazada Yaqub Khan, who served under the late president Mohammad Zia Ul Haq.

It was Zia who overthrew Bhutto's father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977 and had him hanged two years later. Zia died in a plane crash Aug. 17, weeks after announcing the Nov. 16 general elections that swept Bhutto's party to power.

The elections were Pakistan's first free elections in 11 years. Bhutto named Yahya Bakhtiar as attorney general, the same post he held under her father in the 1970s.

All 10 cabinet ministers and seven ministers of state, the second echelon in rank, took the oath of office Sunday. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath.

Keeping Yaqub Khan at the helm of foreign policy is a signal of continuity in Pakistan's stand on the war in neighbouring Afghanistan, Bhutto said at a weekend news conference.

Pakistan, with help from the United States, supports Muslim guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government and shelters more than three million Afghan war refugees.

Pakistan and Afghanistan signed a U.N.-brokered accord in April providing for the phased withdrawal of an estimated 100,300 Soviet troops from Afghanistan by Feb. 15. Washington and Moscow were co-guarantors of the accord.

About half of the troops have already left, but the pullout is temporarily stalled because the communists claim Islamabad is violating the pact by continuing

to arm the rebels.

Pakistan claims it is entitled to supply such arms, saying Washington and Moscow agreed to continue their supplies to their allies in the 10-year war until the other side stops.

Despite her bitter opposition to Zia, Bhutto said during her election campaign that she would maintain his Afghan policy until the fighting stops and the refugees feel safe to go home.

In her first official act as prime minister, Bhutto, 35, called Saturday for the release of about 1,000 political prisoners convicted under Zia's martial law.

In a recommendation to the president, she also called for the commutation of all 34th sentences and the release of all female prisoners except those convicted of murder.

Ishaq Khan did not immediately respond but Ahsan, the new law minister, said the president was required to act on the advice of the prime minister.

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Saturday he planned to tell Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their fifth and final meeting next week that President-elect Bush represented continuity as well as change.

Reagan said in his weekly radio address the meeting in New York Wednesday would not be a formal summit with a formal agenda.

"But you can be sure that I'll be telling Mr. Gorbachev that George Bush represents change, yes, but also continuity," Reagan said. Bush will also attend the talks.

U.S. officials have played down the meeting in New York Wednesday, refusing to call it a summit.

But Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky told reporters in Moscow Friday that the Kremlin saw the meeting as "an important link in the development of dialogue."

"On that basis, the Soviet leadership intends to put on the agenda of the New York talks important, significant questions of real political coordinated action by

both sides over a wide range of problems," he declared.

Petrovsky did not elaborate, but in a statement he left little doubt Gorbachev would be urging the U.S. leaders to support a call for an international conference on Afghanistan.

Craig Fuller, Bush's chief of staff and co-director of his transition team, told reporters Friday that while matters of substance would be discussed, "we're not going to lay out a framework so that action will be taken in the months ahead."

"We're looking at the meeting next week as an opportunity for the vice-president and Mr. Gorbachev to meet again... to get to know one another a little better."

The meeting will be Gorbachev's final meeting with Reagan and his first with Bush since Bush was elected last month.

Fuller said Bush wants Secretary of State-designate James Baker to meet North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze before a full-scale Bush-Gorbachev summit is held.

Burmese opposition figure quits alliance

BANGKOK (R) — The chairman of the main opposition group fighting for democracy in Burma resigned at the weekend after a row over possible communist influence.

The National League for Democracy issued a statement saying General Aung Gyi, a collaborator-turned-critic of veteran leader Ne Win, resigned as chairman Saturday.

He left after fellow members of the league's 42-member central council voted to reject his charges against eight council members of being communist or communist sympathisers, the statement, received in Bangkok, said.

Aung Gyi, 70, had already established a separate group, the Union National Democracy Party, and he was expected to register this with the election commission to compete politically with the league, political sources in Rangoon said.

The military authorities, who staged a bloody army takeover Sept. 18 after a popular uprising against one-party socialist rule, have said they would hold elections when they deem law and

order have been restored.

More than 150 parties have registered with the commission. There was no immediate comment from Aung San Suu Kyi, the 43-year-old daughter of national hero Aung San and secretary general of the league, who emerged as a focus of opposition hopes during months of mass demonstrations last summer.

A source close to Aung San Suu Kyi, said General Tin Oo, a 62-year-old former defence minister and vice chairman of the league, would not be leaving the group to join Aung Gyi. The three-way alliance was the driving force of the group.

The split in the league was considered by diplomats as a serious blow for the emerging political opposition that sought a broad-based unity to combat the small military elite under Ne Win that has ruled Burma for 26 years.

But Western diplomats said some league leaders expressed relief on the departure of Aung Gyi whose close link with the military establishment was considered a mixed blessing.

While he could talk easily with army chiefs, his past raised suspicion with the young activists who form the core of the league's support.

League sources said Aung Gyi had accused eight members of the council, including three of the 12-member national executive, of being communist.

A 100-km kilometre stretch along the southern coast had no electricity for days after the front damaged an electricity pylon. People regularly queue up for water and rationed kerosene.

Rice, a staple, is difficult to find.

Villagers who used to sell seashells and clothes to tourists are jobless as are hotel workers after the government advised tourists to stay away.

Security alert

In Hamhantota, public transport is a few state-run buses driven by army soldiers.

Security officials believe the front has only 150 "hard core" cadres in the south. It gives the impression of having more, but



Bush means continuity, Reagan to tell Gorbachev

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